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KENT ON SUNDAY

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MARATHON EFFORTS OF COUNTY RUNNERS

Tim Garran is one of scores of runners from across the county who will be pounding the streets of the capital today as they take part in the London Marathon.

The dedicated participants will spend several hours running through the city in a bid to raise tens of thousands of pounds for charity.

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

POLICE'S KNIFE THREAT VICTIM GIVEN £14,000 COMPENSATION

Force apologises for assault by officers

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

AN ARTHRITIC man who had a knife held to his throat by a police officer says higher-ups in Kent Police should have been sacked over his ordeal.

Chatham man Anthony Colcomb, 57, won £14,000 compensation and an apology from the force after being assaulted by two officers investigating an alleged robbery in August, 2008. They were both subsequently convicted of assault and then sacked.

Sgt Oliver Tingly – who was accused of holding the knife to Mr Colcomb's throat – was jailed for 90 days over the incident while his colleague, PC Luke Barlow, received 300 hours' community service.

In a letter of apology to the victim written on behalf of the Chief Constable, Kent Police's head of legal services Beverley Newman admitted there were "clearly important lessons to be learned" and that the force "very much regrets" the actions of its former officers and the "distress and upset" they caused.

The letter was dated March 24, just days after Mike Fuller had left his job as Chief Constable to take up a new position at the Crown Prosecution Service. His former deputy Adrian Leppard is currently standing in while a replacement is found.

Mr Colcomb said of the attack: "It was absolutely terrifying. One officer – Barlow – threw me onto my sofa and sat on me while he shouted in my face. I couldn't move at all.

"Then the other one took me into the kitchen and held a knife against my throat. I just couldn't believe what was happening. I was expecting to be questioned, not assaulted.

"I just hope that if this happens again to someone in the future it should be someone higher up getting the sack.

"If they did their job properly and instructed their officers to go gently on people, this would never have happened.

"You hear about the police being heavy-handed with their suspects all the time. They get away with murder."

Mr Colcomb said he was arrested and taken to Medway police station following the attack, but that he was never charged with the robbery under investigation.

It was during his three-and-a-half hour stint in the cells that he learned the two officers had themselves been arrested, after a third colleague who was also present at Mr Colcomb's flat informed his superiors of what had happened.

A subsequent investigation into the matter found Sgt Tingly and PC Barlow did not follow the correct procedures when arresting or cautioning him, and were therefore not acting in the lawful execution of their duty.

Mr Colcomb said: "The letter of apology I received wasn't very long and it didn't seem

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

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£14,000 and apology after police made knife threat

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

to me that it came from the heart. It seemed like it came from his (the Deputy Chief Constable's) secretary more than him.

"I am still amazed and disgusted by what happened and hope I can now get on with my life.

"I sincerely hope the police do learn from this so no other innocent people have to go through the same ordeal."

This is not the first time this year Kent Police have been forced to issue an apology for the way its officers have treated members of the public.

In February, former Gillingham resident Alioune Haynes, 31, won £8,500 compensation after he was stopped, arrested, handcuffed and strip-searched for no apparent reason outside a Gillingham nightclub, in March, 2006.

ANTHONY COLCOMB: Knife ordeal

Mr Haynes said the incident only happened because he is black. In relation to the attack on Mr Colcomb, Kent Police paid an out-of-court settlement of £14,000 following legal action taken through Irwin Mitchell solicitors.

Legal representative Iftikhar Manzoor said: "There is a strict limit on how much force police officers are allowed to use and in this case the officers in question went far in excess of any reasonable force.

"The police are there to enforce the law and protect the public from harm, and Kent Police have some very important lessons to learn from this case to ensure something like this can never happen again.

"It's totally unacceptable to have officers going round threatening people and taking the law into their own hands."

Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas confirmed the force had apologised to Mr Colcomb.

He added: "We expect the highest standards of our officers and staff and aim to serve Kent with the commitment and dedication our communities deserve.

"No-one is above the law and this case shows Kent Police treat everyone equally.

"We hope Mr Colcomb is now able to put this incident behind him and move towards a more positive future."

'Cautious optimism' as jobless total falls

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

JOBLESS figures for Kent and Medway have fallen by nearly 900 in a month – the first reduction in almost a year.

Last month a total of 36,846 people were claiming benefits throughout the county compared with 37,744 in February.

The reduction is in line with national figures released this week that reveal the number of jobseekers on the dole has fallen by 32,900 to 1.54 million.

However, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) the national rate of unemployment stands at eight per cent – the highest it has been since 1996 – meaning there are still 2.5 million people out of work.

The unemployment rate for Kent (excluding Medway) is much lower at 3.5 per cent, while the rate for Medway is 4.7 per cent.

Nick Rowell – director of policy at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce – believes the county may fare better than many other parts of the country due to the ability of many of its small businesses to survive the recession.

He explained: "Many Kent businesses have traded with each other for years and are more likely to continue working with one another even if one side is late on its payments. If people know and believe in each other they are much less edgy during tough times, and the bust is therefore likely to be less. Another factor is that small businesses are more likely to have bought their own premises and assets, meaning they are less vulnerable during a downturn because they don't have to pay the interest on them."

Reduction

The reduction in Kent jobseekers marks the end of eight straight months of increases.

The last time the number of people claiming benefits fell was June, 2009, when 34,106 people were on the dole compared with 35,197 the previous month.

David Philpott, chairman of the Institute of Directors in Kent, welcomed the news.

He said: "While the national statistics show a rise to 2.5 million people out of work, here in Kent we have seen a fall in the number of people looking for work – down by 898 – and that's got to be good news. While we mustn't be complacent, we should cautiously welcome this drop in unemployment and hope that in the coming months the trend continues.

"I would hope some of these new-found jobs have been created by the entrepreneurial spirit for which Kent is renowned."

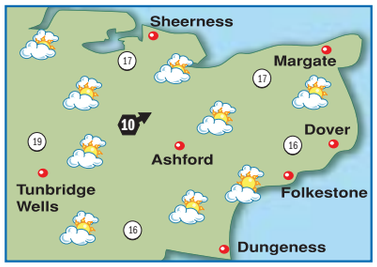
According to the ONS figures, Ashford is the only district in Kent that experienced an increase in benefits claimants between February and March, albeit only by six, up to 2,066. Medway experienced the biggest fall – 150 – but is still home to the most claimants, with 7,446.

Minister for the South East Jonathan Shaw – also the Labour candidate for Chatham and Aylesford – admitted to KOS Media last month that there was a mixed picture across the country.

He said: "This is a worldwide recession and we anticipated there would be higher levels of unemployment than there ever has been over the course of this government, but they're not as high as we or media commentators predicted."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Kent today



TODAY: Another fine day with plenty of sunshine and patchy cloud. Light and variable winds. It will feel very warm with temperatures above the April average. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F). **TONIGHT:** There will be some late evening sunshine. It will then be dry with clear intervals. Min temp 7-10C (45-50F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	12	54	London	fair	20	68
Belfast	showers	15	59	Liverpool	fair	16	61
Birmingham	showers	18	64	Manchester	showers	17	63
B'mouth	cloudy	16	61	Newcastle	fair	15	59
Bristol	fair	13	55	Norwich	fair	18	64
Cardiff	drizzle	16	61	Oxford	fair	18	64
Cork	rain	14	57	Southsea	fair	16	61
Edinburgh	cloudy	14	57	S'hampton	cloudy	17	63
Glasgow	cloudy	14	57	Southport	fair	15	59
Isle of Man	drizzle	12	54	Swansea	drizzle	13	55
Leeds	fair	16	61	Torquay	cloudy	14	57

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5.39am	Sunset	8.09pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	4.41pm	Moonset	3.56am	8.09pm to 5.37am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	09.24	6.0	21.45	6.3	10.13	6.3	22.32	6.5
Margate	10.18	4.4	22.39	4.5	11.15	4.5	23.28	4.6
St Mary's	02.42	5.1	15.15	5.1	03.38	5.4	16.05	5.4

Week ahead

monday Rather cloudy. max 18C min6C

tuesday Dry and fine. max 19C min 8C

wednesday Sunny intervals. max 21C min 8C

thursday Plenty of sun. max 21C min 7C

friday Another fine day. max 19C min 8C

saturday Dry and bright. max 17C min 7C

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No pain, no gain for fundraisers running in London marathon

A DEDICATED group of Kent runners are taking to the streets of London today to raise funds for charity, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Among them will be Melanie Ann Simpson from Deal who dropped four-stone in weight and found she no longer needs to take her medication for type 2 Diabetes – just to take part in the London Marathon.

The 38-year-old is raising money for the World Society for the Protection of Animals after crying at its TV advert on cruelty to bears.

She said: "I an animal lover and hate the thought of any cruelty to animals. The training has changed my normal habits and and I am a lot healthier."

Several Kent runners are raising money for a children's leukaemia charity and will run for a team known as the Mr Men and Little Miss.

West Farleigh grandmother Rickki Bussell, 71, is raising £10,000. It's her second marathon, even though she was given five years to live in 1989, after developing ovarian cancer. Now 21 years later she is running 26 miles to help others.

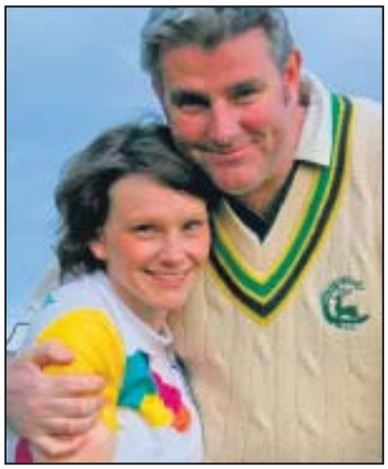
James Shannon joins them to raise cash to help children affected by the UK's most common form of childhood cancer.

James, 36, from Faversham, chose Children with Leukaemia because his father supported them before he died two years ago.

Also running for the same team is Ian Cowley, a sergeant in the Royal Engineers from Maidstone, who will raise £2,000.

Graham Harraway, 33, a heating engineer from Sittingbourne, signed up because a friend suffered with leukaemia in 2009.

Peter Hudson, 29, is raising £10,000. He is also with the Royal Engineers.



COMFORT: Liz Farley is running for Brain Tumour UK as her boyfriend ex-Kent cricketer Igglesden has lived with tumour for 10 years

And teacher Jeremy Dack, 38, from Sholden, Deal, has a friend who is suffering with the disease.

Teacher Liz Farley is the girlfriend of former Kent and England fast bowler Alan Igglesden.

The 30-year-old, is raising money for Brain Tumour UK.

The 45-year-old former cricketer has lived with a brain tumour for the last 10 years.

She said: "It will be my first-ever marathon and I hope to raise £5,000 to help beat brain tumours."

Liz said: "I hope to achieve a time of 4 hours 30 minutes, but anything will do."

Property investor Greg Ellis, 23, from Maidstone, is running with Martin Roberts, TV presenter of Homes Under the Hammer. He is raising cash for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Greg said: "I am humbled by the incredible work and heartfelt time and energy that goes into granting magical wishes for young people suffering from life threatening illnesses."

Sharon Foster is a marathon runner and took a break from her training to speak with children at Newington Community Primary School in Ramsgate to tell them how tough the 26-mile race is. The Thanet Roadrunners Club athlete will be raising funds for the Help for Heroes charity.

PDSA vet Tim Garran, 28, from St Mary's Island, Chatham, will be helping to raise £200,000 for the organisation. He has been out most mornings at 6am pounding the pavements before starting work at the PDSA PetAid hospital in Gillingham.

He said: "I'm absolutely determined to complete the race and there's no better motivation to help me get around the course than thinking about all the animals my fundraising efforts will be helping."

Nurse Deirdre Peters, 49, is raising money for the charity she works for, the Greenwich & Bexley Cottage Hospice.

She said: "Three years ago the hospice cared for my mum in the last days of her life for which I am eternally grateful."

High-speed truth?

TORY Roger Gale has criticised transport minister Chris Mole for refusing to back up comments about the use of high-speed trains in Thanet.

During a debate in the House of Commons Mr Mole claimed one in three of Mr Gale's constituents now travel on the 140mph service. However, he has turned down a Freedom of Information Act request to publish the source of the data on grounds that it is "commercially sensitive and provided in confidence".

Mr Gale said: "The travelling public do not accept the Department for Transport's wild assertions about the 'success' of High Speed 1 and it is clear to me the minister cannot back up his claim with hard fact."

Match is a winner

A FOOTBALL match between Folkestone Invicta and Croydon Athletic dedicated Rifleman Peter Aldridge, 19, who was killed in January in Helmand province, Afghanistan, raised more than £10,000.

The free game on Tuesday night, was attended by more than 2,000 people with all proceeds split between the charities Help for Heroes and Care for Casualties.

To see this clip search 'pearce' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

England under-21 coach Stuart Pearce gives a workshop to 70 coaches from across the county

Teen fishing pair come up 'trunks' when they net tusk

AS A fishing trip it was a washout with just one mullet in the net, but a pair of teenagers did manage to catch an elephant tusk.

Friends David McCormack and Billy Bradshaw, 17, had just thrown out their net at low tide in Louisa Bay, near their homes in Broadstairs.

David said: "We can walk a long way out at low tide, which we do as evening falls.

"We throw out the net, go home, and come back at low tide the next morning and see what we've netted which is usually sea bass and mullet.

"But this evening, we could see something sticking up out of the sand – it looked really odd and we decided it would be best if we checked it out more closely the following morning."

The student at Chatham House Grammar School and his friend were then stunned when they started to dig into the soft sand.

It turned out to be a full-length elephant tusk in old, but good condition weighing in at 1.5-stone.

David, who is doing business studies, said: "It is not fossilised or at least doesn't appear to be. We have not had it checked by any experts yet, but it is an amazing find."

The teenager, who celebrated his 17th birthday on the day of the find, added: "I hope it may be worth some money which would be great as we are both students."

FIND: David and Billy with the elephant tusk

David's father John, who runs child anti-obesity firm skip2bfit, said: "I assume it has come from a wreck. We want to find someone who could possibly fill in the gaps. My son thinks he is now rich."

Anything found on a beach needs to be reported to the receiver of wrecks, who told KOS Media there could be a reward if an owner is ever found. She also pointed out that there could be rules against selling it, if it turns out to be an ivory tusk.

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Visions for future in fog of recession

SPECIAL REPORT

By BUSINESS WEEK EDITOR
STEVE LOADER
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

EVEN after peeling away some of the understandable hype, Kent 2020 Vision this week inspired a positive outlook for the county's business sector.

Even the once-maligned 'green shoots of recovery' phrase was uttered many times without too much adverse comment on Thursday at Detling showground near Maidstone, during what is billed as the largest business-to-business conference and exhibition in the South East.

And serial entrepreneur and Dragons' Den star James Caan gave meaning to his billing as keynote speaker by urging the audience to invest in their businesses now after retrenchment during the recession.

Having lived and traded through two recessions, he told them: "I realised that those are periods when I learned the most."

And even this paragon of entrepreneurship admitted his business came close to collapse in the early 1990s, through other people failing to pay their bills – see more on that topic in our new Business Week section.

His top tip for investment was: people.

Companies may have had to shed staff during the downturn, he said, but the smart ones will have kept their best people and are already in the market for good recruits, getting ready for the upturn and before staffing competition gets tougher.

FIGHT BACK: Key speaker James Cann urged audience to invest in their businesses

He also urged them to look at exports, a more attractive position now that the pound had fallen in value.

And his most radical tip was to get fresh thoughts and minds into your company by offering internships to hungry young graduates keen to get some kind of work experience in a crowded market.

It was an invitation that budding young entrepreneur Victoria Hart from Larkfield could not resist.

In her final year as a business studies student at Canterbury Christchurch University she asked Caan how she might get one of his internships and he invited her to leave word with him at his website.

The show programme started bright and early with a breakfast meeting staged by Visit Kent, with guest speaker Nick Hewer – Lord Alan Sugar's famously dry and witty right-hand man on The Apprentice.

He could not resist a quip or two about the PR disaster for Margate when The Apprentice staged an episode there, but he held the audience spellbound with a behind-the-scenes account of the hit business show.

The serious message of this session though was Visit Kent's launch of its eye-catching new Kent Contemporary tourism campaign, backed initially by a £400,000 KCC grant and easily justifiable against tourism's ranking as the UK's most valuable industry and one worth a cool £2.5 billion to Kent alone and set to grow with a favourable exchange rate.

But while the overall mood was relentlessly upbeat with rare mentions of the recession, KCC Leader Paul Carter hammered home the point that the county's business needs to be freed to put the 'R' word behind it.

Bureaucracy was killing the efforts of business to move on, he said, and he had gathered evidence that in his own business sector, construction, paperwork and restrictions was adding 20-25 per cent to UK construction costs in the UK compared with Europe.

For more on Kent 2020 Vision, check out next week's Business Week, our new e-Bulletin and www.businessforkent.co.uk.

• ***See our new Business Week section for more business news from the county.***

KOS Media praised at industry's Oscars

KOS Media's digital services have been praised the media industry's 'Oscars', the 2010 Newspaper Awards.

The company was nominated in two categories – for 'new media initiatives' in the Fujifilm Grand Prix award; and the 'best use of new media award' for Yourkenttv.

In addition to its websites providing news, business and sports coverage, KOS Media also runs an internet TV service and provides a free iPhone app available at kentnews.co.uk.

KOS Media managing director Paul Stannard said: "To be shortlisted with such household names as The Guardian, Daily Telegraph and Financial Times is a great honour and testament to our staff's dedication to innovation.

"These national media companies have big backers and huge staff resources, but this recognition for KOS Media just goes to show what can be achieved with vision, a motivated staff, and a commitment to serve the people of Kent."

To see this clip search 'iPhone' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Keep up to date with all the news and sport from across the county with KOS Media's free iPhone app

Tiger Moths fly in the face of Icelandic volcano's ash

AS VOLCANIC ash closed down UK airspace last weekend the nostalgic 'roar' of vintage Tiger Moth biplanes was heard over the empty skies above London Gatwick airport.

Thirteen classic aircraft from the Tiger Club based at Headcorn flew in perfect formation at 1,000ft over what is usually one of the busiest runways in the world.

Among the aircraft taking part in the formation was the world's second oldest Tiger Moth, which dates from 1933.

The formation flight was led by former airline pilot Chris Jesson, who explained: "The idea was simple: Gatwick was not operating for commercial traffic and it was a lovely sunny day, so we rallied the troops together and put a call into Gatwick Air Traffic Control to ask permission for the formation flight.

"They were delighted at our request and confirmed that we'd be welcome to fly past, providing we adhered to flight restrictions."

The Tiger Club has been famous for formation display flying and aerobatics since its formative years in the 1950s, when the flying club was based first at Croydon Airport and then at Redhill Aerodrome in Surrey.

It is now based at Headcorn and draws most of its flyers from Kent.

UP AND AWAY: The Tiger Moth biplanes fly over grounded airplanes at Gatwick

Tiger Club Manager Glyn Richards described the formation over Gatwick as an historic event.

He said: "When the Tiger Club first began club members used to drop into Gatwick for tea at 3.30pm on a Sunday, but once controlled airspace was introduced that all stopped.

"This must be the first time in around 40 years that we've had a chance to fly some vintage aeroplanes over Gatwick."

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PANDORA
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Animal instincts second nature to expert Jackie

ANIMAL behaviourist Jackie Murphy will be the leader of the pack when she begins her new international role.

Ms Murphy, 48, from Gravesend, has been named as Ambassador of Great Britain to the International Society of Animal Professionals.

Founded to improve animal welfare around the world and promote common good standards of practice, ISAP has asked Ms Murphy to help spread the word in the UK.

"The role is in its infancy at the moment, but it's really about collating a lot of people who are like-minded in the animal profession, from all over the world," she said.

"There will be an online forum for people to share ideas and talk. If you are a dog walker who is qualified and wanted to be part of an association, that would be one of the places you could go and join.

"We have students doing animal-related courses and hopefully we will be able to bandy about ideas and ask questions."

Humane

As a canine and feline behaviour expert, Ms Murphy runs a successful training and behavioural service covering Kent, London, Essex, Sussex and Surrey, using non-invasive and humane methods.

It was all so different 10 years ago, when she worked in sales and marketing with no plans to change her career. It was after taking in a rescue cat which had a behavioural problem, that her life turned in a very different direction.

"The cat would sit on your lap and then just attack you [without warning]. About five months later, I had 'cured' him and wanted to find out what had changed him," she said. "I had two small children and didn't have the luxury of going to university, so I needed a course I could do at home. I got in touch with a distance learning college and I wanted to do a cat course, but they only had dog courses.

"They twisted my arm, so I did it. Six years later I had a foundation degree in canine behaviour management and had my own business. I was also running dog behaviour classes for a college in Sidcup, doing vet referrals and writing articles for the Cats Protection League."

Whether people have adopted a rescue pet or bought a puppy or kitten, Ms Murphy believes she can help address most situations, though she stressed that the first step is to visit your vet and make sure there are no medical issues.

"About 90 per cent of the time, the problem is owner-related," she said. "Some people say, 'it's so simple, we should have seen that' but when you have an issue and are dealing with it 24 hours a day, it's emotional. It's sometimes hard to be objective and look at your dog and see what's going on."

• ***Find out more about Jackie Murphy's services by visiting the website at www.specialistdogtraining.co.uk.***

TOP DOG: Jackie Murphy (her dog is pictured right) is Ambassador of Great Britain to the International Society of Animal Professionals

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Critics condemn 'sexualising' of our young girls

By MARIJKE COX

WITH celebrities promoting grown-up glamorous lifestyles to youngsters and child stars gracing the world's stage, child protection charities believe being a girl is now tougher than ever.

And with youngsters more than aware of the high standards set by society when it comes to body image, experts are pushing retailers to think how their products may affect children.

Just last month, glamour model and former celebrity mum-of-the-year Katie Price dropped the controversial bombshell she was planning to launch a make-up range for little girls.

It followed backlash from the public and her ex-husband Peter Andre after pictures emerged of their two-year-old daughter Princess Tiaamii wearing make-up and false eyelashes.

Ms Price – or Jordan, as her alter-ego is known – then announced she wanted to create the 'Princess' beauty range.

But while critics condemned the star's plans, similar projects – one based in Kent – are already up and running.

Bee for Beauty, founded by Belinda Collins, from Aylesford, near Maidstone, creates bespoke beauty parties for girls aged four to 15-years-old.

The youngest age group, four to seven-years-old, can be treated to mini-manicures and pedicures, eye make-up and lipstick, nail art, temporary tattoos and face jewels.

For girls aged from seven-10, hair straightening and curling is added into the package.

And for the older age group, 10-15, stick-on nails, eye make-up, lashes, lipsticks, hair straightening and curling, and manicures, pedicures and facials are available.

Despite these types of 'pamper parties' coming under fire by children's charities, Ms Collins, 30, says her treatments are different.

"My parties for younger girls are about enhancing their natural beauty, not covering them in bright-coloured lip gloss and eyeshadows," she said.

"Girls that age want to dress up like princesses and need to embrace their childhood, but to see a three-year-old wearing bright red lipstick is just disgusting."

ROW: Katie Price

Appropriate

The marketing director also hit out at parents who dress their children up in grown-up clothes.

Photos of four-year-old Suri Cruise, daughter of Hollywood couple Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, showed the youngster wearing high heels and make-up.

This was defended by Ms Holmes, who claimed they were ballroom dancing shoes for children.

But Ms Collins said she disagrees with dressing toddlers in high heels and instead takes dressing-up boxes full of appropriate outfits to her children's parties.

Last week, popular clothing store Primark withdrew its £4 padded bikini sets, which were aimed at seven-year-olds.

Child protection charities blasted the chain for "sexualising" young girls and Tory leader David Cameron called it "disgraceful".

Chris Cloke, head of child protection awareness at the NSPCC said the growing climate of sexualisation encourages a view of girls as sex objects.

"All children should be valued for their abilities and talent. They should be free to grow up as children," he said.

"Sadly, we have reached a point where many children get distressed because they think they don't look good.

"Manufacturers and shops can help by giving more thought about how their products might affect children.

"And parents can help by talking sensibly to their children about how they dress and what they do."

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Saga people do things properly

As Kent's major airport ground to a halt, supermarkets worked overtime to keep

TRAIN SERVICES COME TO THE RESCUE

TRAVEL companies in Shepway felt the effects of the air ban caused by the volcanic ash cloud.

Cross-channel train service Eurostar made all 30,000 of its standard class seats available at a flat rate of £89 until Sunday in order to meet demand.

Eurotunnel, which handles vehicle traffic, said it dealt with the huge extra demand by laying on extra trains and rejected accusations it was profiteering from the chaos.

Lydd Airport reported one of its scheduled carriers was working flat out to take people to destinations in France and Ireland, as executive jets were not affected by the restrictions.

Meanwhile one of Shepway's big employers, Holiday Extras, in Newingreen, was cancelling airport and hotel room bookings at a rate of 1,000 a day.

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KENT ON SATURDAY

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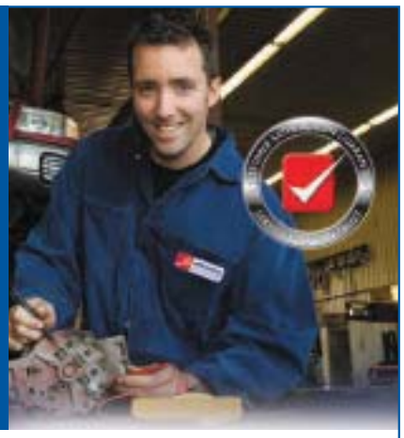

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Food shortage is averted as Kent battles volcano crisis

By CHRIS MURPHY

THE ICELANDIC volcano ash that cleared UK airspace until Wednesday narrowly failed to cause any major food shortages.

Supermarkets say they worked overtime to avoid empty shelves in Kent, despite one county airport reporting that food imports arriving on its runway had been crippled.

Fresh fruit, vegetables and even flowers stopped arriving at Kent International Airport (KIA) in Manston.

Owner Infratil said staff there used the time to catch-up on maintenance programmes and use up holiday allowance after the Eyjafjallajokull volcano sent massive plumes of ash into the atmosphere. There were major concerns the type of ash could cripple aircraft engines, sending planes into the Atlantic.

Infratil said KIA handles a lot of freight aircraft arriving in the UK.

Absence

Chief executive Steve Fitzgerald said: "We are a key part of that fruit and vegetable supply chain."

He said KIA handles about three million kilograms of fruit, vegetables and flowers a year.

On Wednesday Tom Wilson, of KIA, said: "Manston has reopened and it's a case of back to business with freight traffic scheduled to return as soon as possible.

"Manston will once again play its part in supplying fresh fruit and vegetables to many major retailers in addition to a growing base of general import/export cargo flows."

And the county's supermarkets fought back during the crisis. Tesco said fewer than one per cent of its products are air freighted, and where possible it used alternative routes to bring these products to the UK.

The Co-op and Somerfield chain said it didn't use air-freight for its products on environmental grounds, so was not affected at all.

Meanwhile, the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association said it did what it could to maintain a flow of vital foods.

Christopher Snelling, its head of global supply chain policy, said: "With imports of some fruit and vegetables grounded, certain fresh produce, such as exotic fruits and fresh flowers, are starting to become noticeable by their absence from our supermarket shelves."

He said it would take two weeks from the first flight for supplies to be back up to speed and

Boss escapes Milan misery

KITCHEN company boss Andrew Stupple was luckier than many when he became trapped in Milan by the ash fallout.

The 50-year-old from Deal was attending a major trade show in Italy when the volcano erupted and grounded his return flight.

But the company he holds a franchise with secured a coach to make the 21-hour return journey.

RETURN: Andrew Stupple in Venice

Mr Stupple, who runs Intoto Kitchens in Canterbury said: "We were grateful to get home, but I was very uncomfortable by the time we got back to Heathrow to pick up the company van.

"It was very frustrating when we landed in Dover and my house was just minutes away in Deal.

"I thought about getting off and picking up the van later, but decided to make the trip even longer and get it all done.

"We were home a couple of days late, but while in Italy my sister-in-law who lives in Milan took me to Venice for the day, which made the stay there a little more bearable.

"I felt sorry for many others stuck at the show who didn't have a coach laid on. I guess they just had to wait it out. I am just glad to be back home now."

Agency alert for people with

PEOPLE in Kent with severe breathing difficulties should not venture out of their homes without taking their vital medications with them.

That's the advice from the Health Protection Agency after the volcano eruption.

It said: "Because small quantities of volcanic ash could float back up into the air in windy conditions it would be sensible for people with existing respiratory conditions such as bronchitis, emphysema and asthma to ensure they keep their inhalers or other medications with them."

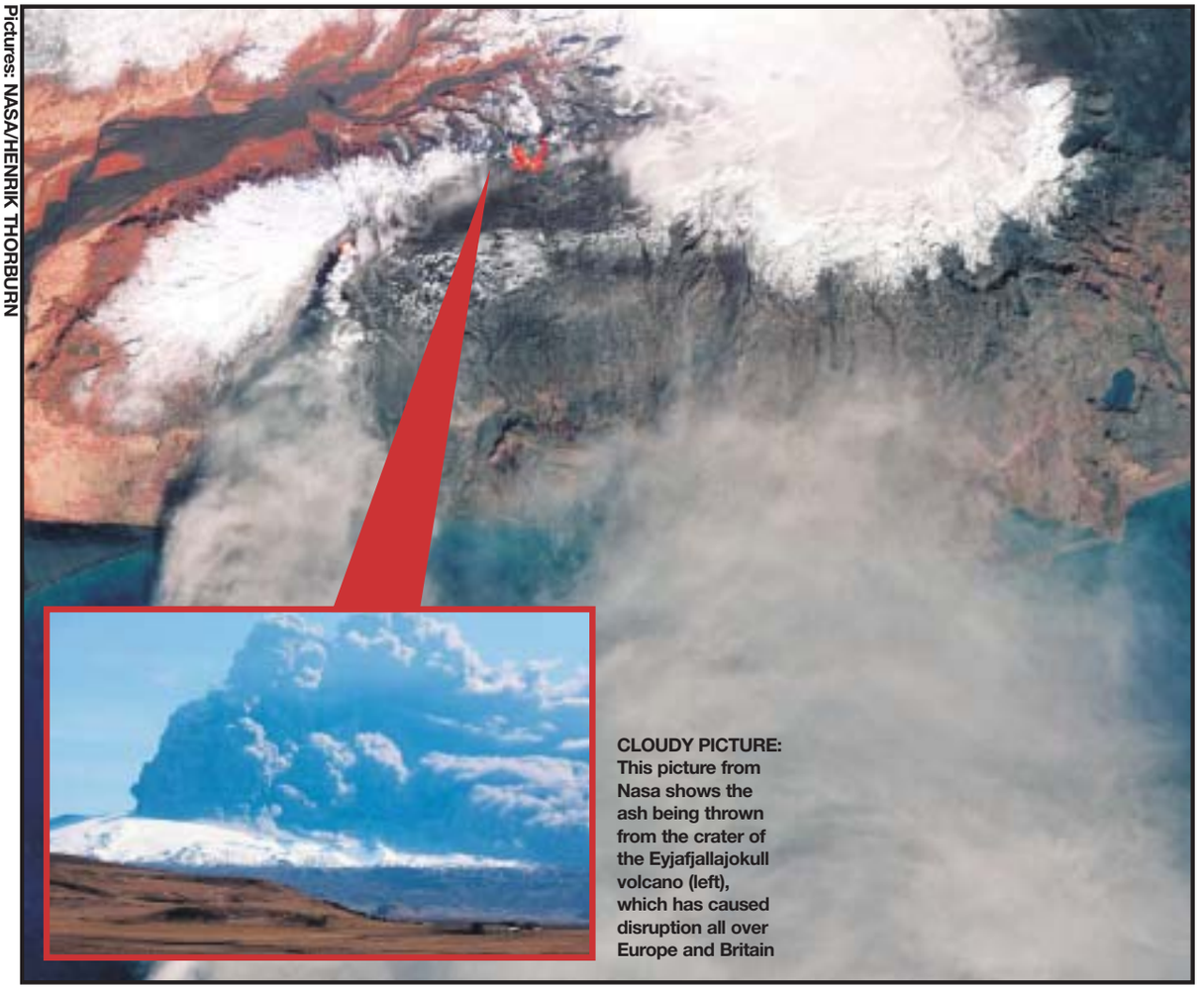
The ash is mixing in different layers of the atmosphere with small amounts reaching ground level, according to the Met Office, and some of it has been reported in Kent.

Because weather systems are notoriously changeable it is not possible to predict whether there will be any changes in the pattern of volcanic ash and the situation is being kept under scrutiny.

The HPA added: "It is important to recognise the volcanic

shelves full, and the Channel operators did their best to help stranded travellers

Pictures: NASA/HENRIK THORBURN



CLOUDY PICTURE: This picture from Nasa shows the ash being thrown from the crater of the Eyjafjallajokull volcano (left), which has caused disruption all over Europe and Britain

fully recover from all the delays.

Mr Snelling said: "We face an unprecedented logistical challenge. Of course, for fresh produce, this could simply be too long a wait and some will simply have to be destroyed. Producers in Africa are being particularly badly hit – in some areas of the continent 90 per cent of fruit, flowers and vegetable exports to Europe are delivered by air. With more than one million African farmers reliant on the UK consumption, UK holidaymakers are not the only ones watching the skies."

Resilience

Eurotunnel also did its bit to help by doubling its capacity with Shuttle departures every 15 minutes, at the normal price. Some 323 coaches used the service in one day, 85 per cent higher than usual. The company also provided extra crossings for Eurostar, which enabled around 100,000 passengers to cross the Channel last weekend.

The Port of Dover said it made a concerted and co-ordinated effort with the ferry operators to help stranded travellers.

It said more than quarter of a million passengers were handled since the airline crisis began, the same at 600 Boeing 747s or 336 full Eurostar trains. It is also handled 10 times as many foot passengers.

Port of Dover chief executive Bob Goldfield said: "Once again Dover has showed its resilience in a time of world crisis."

Some teachers and pupils were stranded abroad when schools reopened on Monday after the Easter holidays.

The included a party of students from The Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs stranded in the United States.

Some 25 pupils were stuck in New York, where they have been on a school trip to visit museums and artworks with teachers.

But Kent County Council and Medway Council both said schools had contingency plans in place to deal with staff absences.

breathing difficulties

ash poses no health threat in wet weather as the particles cannot be inhaled under these conditions.

"In the event of rain it is anticipated that only very low concentrations of volcanic ash would be deposited in fields and towns and there are unlikely to be significant health effects among the general public when the rain dries."

But it adds: "If people are outside and notice symptoms such as irritated eyes, runny nose, dry cough, or if they notice a dusty haze in the air, can smell rotten eggs or a strong acidic smell they may wish to limit their activities outdoors or return indoors.

Some people in Medway have noticed significant levels of thick dust settling on cars, and some have reported mild chesty coughs.

GB team thrown by mass eruption

THE BRITISH judo team was forced to take to the roads when the skies were cleared of air traffic.

Starting in Dartford, they had to make a 900-mile road trip to the European Championships in Austria last week, taking 16 hours.

The squad was to have flown from London, but Hythe-based coach company Buzzlines stepped in to save the day.

It took the team from Dartford through France, Belgium and Germany before arriving in Austria.

The judo team's performance operations manager, Karen Roberts, said: "We looked at going on the train, but it was just as long and required several changes.

"We're trying to build a team at the moment, so a 16-hour road trip may not be ideal, but it could be good for morale and now we have a luxury coach, we can make sure the players are relaxed as possible.

"They want to be there and having gone through such a journey they'll be determined to perform well."

Emma Griffin, a spokesman for the British Judo Association, added: "We are very thankful to Buzzlines for being able to supply the coach and drivers at such short notice, enabling us to compete in this championship."

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THE MOTORISTS' NO.1 CHOICE FOR CROSSING THE CHANNEL

GENERAL ELECTION MAY 6, 2010 From blood brothers to ethnic

'I'm not Boris'

BORIS Johnson's younger brother has promised voters he will not be the London Mayor's representative in Orpington.

Financial Times associate editor Jo Johnson is the Tory candidate for the Bromley town but insists he will be his own man if elected.

HIS OWN MAN: Jo Johnson

He said: "I could demand no special treatment from him [Boris]. And let's also be clear that I am not trying to offer myself as a mini-Boris. I would be my own man with one agenda – Orpington's. If elected, the only people who could demand my absolute loyalty would be the residents of this constituency."

Earlier this year Mr Johnson sent out a survey to all 38,000 homes in the area, the results of which he used to form his six main priorities. These include stamping out anti-social behaviour, protecting green spaces and championing the revival of Orpington High Street.

Mr Johnson said his background as a business journalist gave him a ringside seat on Labour's "calamitous mismanagement" of the economy and "lax regulation" of the banks.

Mr Johnson succeeds veteran MP John Horam – who has retired after more than 30 years in Parliament – as the Tories' Orpington candidate. Mr Horam retained his seat at the last General Election with 48.8 per cent of the vote.

Boris Johnson has controversial plans for a floating airport in the Thames Estuary.

Campaign wants vote for anyone but the far-right

By STEVE KNIGHT

ANTI-fascist campaigners are hitting the streets to warn people against voting for far-right parties at the General Election.

The British National Party (BNP) is contesting 15 of the county's 26 seats next month – compared to just four in 2005 – while the National Front is fielding two candidates, in Faversham and Maidstone.

Fighting to see both parties' election dreams crushed are members of the Unite Against Fascism (UAF) group, who are leafleting constituencies targeted by far-right groups in the run-up to polling day.

Last Saturday they held a stall near the Priestfield Stadium home of Gillingham FC, whose supporters are rumoured to be the target of a recruitment drive by the English Defence League.

UAF member Steve Wilkins said: "The BNP has candidates in two of the three Medway seats, and our position is to ask people to use their vote for anyone other than them.

"Although there have been many TV exposes over the years, there are still many people who don't realise what the BNP truly stands for. Its members ferociously deny everything but the evidence is there for all to see.

"I don't think any BNP candidates stand a chance of winning any of the Kent seats, but support for the party is growing and it's important we put a stop to that."

Seven of the Kent seats being targeted by the BNP are on the outskirts of London, but constituencies including Dover, Tunbridge Wells, and Folkestone and Hythe, are also being contested.

The National Front candidates are Graham Kemp in Faversham and Mid Kent, and Gary Butler in Maidstone and the Weald.

Almost immediately after announcing his decision to stand on Monday, Mr Butler was made subject to a campaign by his Labour opponent Rav Seeruthun.

Dr Seeruthun said: "The National Front is a fascist party and given that both [Tory candidate] Helen Grant and I are from [minority] ethnic backgrounds, I fear this is the reason they have put a candidate up.

"We must attack them head-on with a cross-party approach."

Dr Seeruthun's campaign has been supported by fellow Maidstone candidates Stuart Jeffery (Greens) and Peter Carroll (Lib Dem), but Mrs Grant said she did not want to give the National Front the publicity "on which they thrive".

Mr Butler denied claims that he was racist, adding: "I'm not saying kick every non-white person out, not at all.

"We have [minority] ethnic people who have lived and worked here in the country for generations and they have a right to be here.

"I want to see British jobs for British people, but it has nothing to do with race."

CONSERVATIVE transport spokesman Theresa Villiers came to Sittingbourne and Sheppey on Monday to support the campaign of Tory parliamentary hopeful, Gordon Henderson.

Mrs Villiers visited the Port of Sheerness to meet the management team, followed by Mercedes-Benz dealer Sparshatts.

Mr Henderson said: "Improving transport links in the area, whether roads, rail or sea, are key to the area's future prosperity."

CANDIDATES battling for one of Kent's key marginal seats are also squaring up in a fitness challenge.

Stephen Ladyman (Lab) and Laura Sandys (Con) are being tracked by the Fitness Industry Association, which wants to see how much exercise the opponents get through in their fight for the South Thanet constituency by measuring their every step.

Dr Ladyman currently holds the seat with a majority of just 664.

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minorities and armies of supporters, the candidates are out and after your vote

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Peter Carroll with the Gurkha helpers, and inset, Joanna Lumley

Gurkhas show their thanks

MANY retired Gurkha soldiers are expected to say thanks for the successful justice campaign fought on their behalf by voting Liberal Democrat next month.

The party's Maidstone and The Weald candidate Peter Carroll launched the battle against the Government in 2004, which last year resulted in every former Nepalese fighter winning the right to live in the UK.

He was also responsible for gaining the support of Joanna Lumley, whose stirring speeches and criticism of the old Gurkha settlement rules proved the difference between success and failure.

Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg was also a vocal supporter of the campaign.

Kent is home to about 5,000 Gurkha soldiers and their wives – mainly in Folkestone, Ashford and Maidstone – of which about a quarter are eligible to vote.

One of them is Shepway Lib Dem councillor Dhan Gurung, who said he was confident Gurkhas would show their support come polling day: "The Lib Dems fought for the Gurkha cause and did a great job for us, while the other parties didn't work for the issue at all.

"The pensions issue is still ongoing though. British soldiers get more than £6,000 per year but Gurkhas only £1,500. There's no other party than the Lib Dems that will take this cause forward in my opinion, and I think the majority of Gurkhas will give their support."

Last Sunday almost 50 retired Gurkhas helped Mr Carroll deliver campaign leaflets. However, he told KoS Media he did not know which way they were going to vote.

"I never ask," he said. "The fact they came to help is good enough for me.

"I'm hopeful they will vote for me but they're open-minded, free-thinking people and I congratulate them for whoever they choose. I'm just glad they're able to have that choice."

Read all about it

SOME 44 per cent of people who voted in a kentnews.co.uk online poll said they would read the political parties' manifestos.

The poll was run in the week the main three parties launched their programmes for government, but 56 per cent of people said they would not read the manifestos.

Growing Greens

DOUG Goodyer, who for 10 years co-hosted BBC Radio Kent's Sunday Gardening show, has joined the Medway Green Party.

He said: "I have seen the timing of the seasons change and we have all seen the changes in the weather over the years. I firmly believe climate change is the cause.

"I feel it is well past time to act and only the Green Party is really offering proper solutions. I will be standing for election in the years to come."

Cooper barrels in

SECRETARY of State for the Department of Work and Pensions Yvette Cooper visited the marginal Gillingham and Rainham constituency on Tuesday to give her support to Labour candidate Paul Clark.

Ms Cooper spent the afternoon speaking to parents outside Napier Primary School and meeting older people at sheltered accommodation at The Macklands.

Ms Cooper said: "We're here to talk to local parents about important issues like child tax credits. Child tax credits were introduced by the Labour Government and have been a great success, but the Tories and Lib Dems both want to cut them for everyone but the poorest families.

"We just don't think this is fair."

Minorities are key

BUDDING MPs should do more to target ethnic minority voters, according to a British-Asian Parliamentary hopeful.

Dr Rav Seeruthun – Labour candidate for Maidstone and The Weald – said it was important politicians showed a genuine interest in the issues affecting people from all walks of life.

ASIAN CANDIDATES: Ashok Rehal and Rav Seeruthun

His comments were made in response to a survey by the BBC Asian Network that suggests only just over four in 10 Asian voters intend to make the trip to the ballot box next month.

Dr Seeruthun said: "We don't engage Asians in the political process, and especially not the younger ones. In fact, we don't really engage any ethnic minorities.

"I think specifically in Kent the debate about immigration gets ethnic minority people down. It's often talked about as being a bad thing but most of our parents came over here for jobs in this country, so there are positive aspects of immigration."

Dr Seeruthun grew up in this country but was born to parents of Guyanese and Mauritian descent.

Despite there being 89 Asian Prospective Parliamentary Candidates across the country compared to 68 in 2005, the BBC survey suggests only 44 per cent of Asian people are certain to vote on May 6. It also revealed that 40 per cent do not think there will ever be an Asian Prime Minister.

According to separate research conducted after the 2005 General Election, 67 per cent of Pakistanis, 70 per cent of Bangladeshis and 67 per cent of Indians voted – compared with just over 60 per cent nationally.

However, the Asian vote is expected to drop significantly next month.

Labour candidate for Faversham and Mid Kent, Ashok Rehal – who was born in Kenya to Indian parents – said young Asians need to feel that politicians value their vote.

He added: "Young people in general do not feel they are part of the system or that people listen to them.

"To an extent you can go to mosques and so on, but I think it needs to start earlier by educating young people about politics more in schools and universities."

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GENERAL ELECTION

Hague eyes Kent seats 'that will decide election'

FORMER Tory leader William Hague threw his support behind Kent's Conservative candidates during a whistle-stop tour of the county, ***writes Simon Robinson***.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary made five stops during a day-long trip to the county on Wednesday.

Having started in Dartford at 9.15am, Mr Hague met with staff and shoppers at Asda's Chatham branch. He chatted with a number of customers, including bald-headed pensioner John Barnes, whose hairstyle he jokingly likened to his own.

Mr Barnes, 73, of Thorndale Close, Chatham, said: "I like him and I think his haircut is quite smart as well. I think he's a good public speaker who comes across as pretty genuine."

It was not all jokes and smiles for Mr Hague, as Labour member Rob Knight challenged the former Conservative boss outside the store.

The 31-year-old web designer, from Maidstone, quizzed Mr Hague on his party's plans to slash spending and was disappointed with his response.

He said: "I think the least he could have done was stop and talk to me, but he didn't stop at all."

Mr Hague was then driven to Sittingbourne, where he took a walk along the High Street with Conservative candidate Gordon Henderson.

Having stretched his legs, the Tory frontbencher made his first visit to Ramsgate to support Thanet South hopeful Laura Sandys.

PARTY LINE: William Hague on his visit

The pair met at the harbour before heading in to town.

Mr Hague said Ms Sandys had a real chance of taking the seat from Labour's Dr Steve Ladyman.

"I've heard a lot about the work Laura has been doing. She is a great candidate and is running a strong, energetic campaign," he said.

From Ramsgate Mr Hague made his final Kent stop of the day in Dover, before heading to Hastings at 6pm.

When questioned on why he had been sent to the county, Mr Hague said: "There are a lot of important constituencies around Kent which Labour held last time, but gaining these seats is part of making the change.

"They are the seats that will decide who will be in government in two weeks' time."

Record numbers

THE Green Party is standing a record 11 General Election candidates in Kent.

County branch chairwoman Hazel Dawe said the group's "distinctive mix of policies" was superior to that of any other party.

She added: "We would not introduce new coal or nuclear power stations. We would spend on energy efficiency and renewable energy to meet all our needs, and deal with greenhouse gas emissions which are creating climate change."

Visit www.kentgreenparty.org for a full list of Green Party candidates.

USA Twitter trail

THE Lib Dem candidate for Ashford has been doing his electioneering while stuck in the USA thanks to the volcano ash.

Chris Took finally took to the skies on Wednesday to return home to Kent.

On his Twitter webpage, Chris wrote: "Still stuck in the US, at least for a few more days. Hotel has run out of supplies and I've run out of clothes."

Also fighting Ashford is current incumbent Tory MP, Damian Green; Steven Campkin for the Green Party; Chris Clark for Labour; and Jeffrey Elenor for UKIP.

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We have some exciting times ahead of us at Holmewood. I would very much like the chance to share with you our plans for the future.

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James Marjoribanks
Headmaster from September 2010

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"The response from our customers has been amazing", said Managing Director Jonathan Watts. "We knew that we would be busy, but the first day was beyond our wildest dreams. Our customers were delightful, showing a lot of patience as well as good humour. I think that all in all, they went home happy and many with a super bargain."

The business, founded in 1936, will soon embark on a renovation of their store, which will include a new frontage, new displays and a landscaped car park. To make space for the contractors in anticipation of the work, Lenleys are selling off many displays and surplus stock.

The sale is about to finish shortly and Jonathan Watts added, "I would encourage a visit as soon as possible to see quality furniture at fantastic prices, as the stock is going fast."

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Pictures: ROBIN MELLOR

Organic falls out of favour

Producers fear perception of high prices puts consumers off

KENT'S organic farmers have backed the findings of a new report showing a decline in demand for the food products, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

As the effects of the recession continue to bite, a report found sales of organic products slumped by almost 13 per cent last year.

Producers are finding consumers are shying away from organically grown products, such as vegetables, because they tend to be more expensive. With all the belt-tightening going on, organic farmers in Kent are feeling those effects, too.

Alan Brockman helps run Perry Court Farm in Petham, near Canterbury. He said they used to supply a couple of dozen restaurants in the area, but many have gone out of business.

Mr Brockman, a partner in the company, said: "We have had very difficult times because we have had a lot of bad debts.

"That hasn't helped at all. It's all part of this recession. You need pretty good credit ratings to survive these days. We have had to contract quite a lot."

Gerry Minister has run Luddesdown Organic Farm since 1986 and was one of the movement's pioneers.

He said: "People do think organic foods are more expensive, and at one time, they were. But these days there is very little between them, so cost really is not that big an issue.

"However, it is true that the price does appear very much differently by the time the products reach the supermarkets.

"If people were to come to our farm shop they would find the prices are almost the same."

Mr Minister farms 1,100 acres in the village near Gravesend. He said: "Sales of organic produce are all down. I am surprised it is only by 13 per cent, but I suppose that's an average.

"The recession started to affect us in 2008 and 2009 was not good. It's not picking up yet.

"I think if people knew how prices are now, they would buy a lot more of it. If they come direct to us, they can see for themselves. They would see it is not all bad news."

The Organic Market Report 2010 found the worst trading climate for 20 years.

Home delivery organic vegetable and fruit boxes also fell out of favour, with a 9.8 per cent drop, while sales of organic goods in supermarkets fell by 12 per cent, and in the independent sector – farm shops and health food outlets – by almost 18 per cent.

In total across the UK, organic sales fell last year from a record high of £2.1bn in 2008 to £1.84bn, according to the report compiled annually by the Soil Association.

Dairy remains overall the most popular food category, accounting for 33 per cent of all sales.

Despite the publicity given to animal welfare by chefs such as Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, consumers also fell out of love with expensive organic meat.

The report said demand for organic beef fell by 30 per cent and lamb by 10 per cent with organic chicken production slashed by 20 per cent.

QUALITY: Above, Gerry Minister of Luddesdown tests the grain. It is the organic meat trade that is the hardest hit by the slump

Child rode quad bike with woman

A NUISANCE biker has been reprimanded by police after she was caught racing a quad bike with a child in her arms.

The 21-year-old was seen riding the vehicle up and down Meadside Walk, Chatham, at 12.45pm on Friday, April 9.

She admitted using the vehicle while carrying a child in her arms. Neither were wearing crash helmets.

Officers seized the bike as the owner did not have any insurance. The woman was also given a warning about her future conduct.

Group trapped by their own fire

FOUR 'urban explorers' were rescued by firefighters after becoming trapped in a smoke-filled tunnel.

The youngsters aged between 16 and 21 – three men and a girl – called 999 after blocking themselves in a disused air raid tunnel in Oliver Twist Close, Rochester, at midnight on Saturday, April 17.

Firefighters broke a brick wall using sledgehammers to pull out the group from the underground chamber.

The embarrassed explorers led crews to believe they had not started the fire which caused the heavy smoke and implied they had heard other voices in the tunnel.

So firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the tunnel and began searching for people who may be trapped.

However, all they found was a smouldering fire and a camera containing photographs showing the four youngsters sitting around the campfire.

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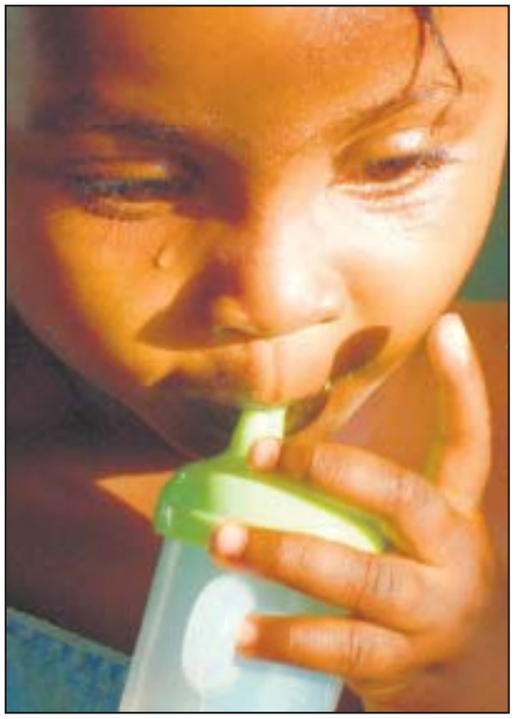

MOVING: The photographs show the young children living in and around an orphanage north west of Port au Prince

Exhibition of photographs to raise money for children of earthquake devastated Haiti

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE earthquake that devastated the capital of Haiti, killing thousands, is being remembered at a Kent exhibition to raise money for the children left behind.

The tragedy left thousands of young children with no homes, no family and no hope.

But a photographic exhibition aims to raise money to make life a little more bearable for at least some of the young victims.

Children of Haiti is being held at the Community Pharmacy Gallery in Margate, and will feature moving photos taken by Ema Rush, a prison educator.

It has been three months since the quake and local community arts organisation Beeping Bush is behind the show.

From a selection of more than 1,500 shots, organisers say the exhibition will showcase a series of powerful and yet warm images of children who live in and around an orphanage located north west of the shattered capital Port au Prince.

They were shot by American nurse, Andrea Benton and British teacher, Ema Rush, 41, who works as a prison educator in Canterbury.

The pair were part of a relief team that volunteered their services a few weeks after the earthquake, to provide practical assistance and also to help restore some hope to a community 40 minutes' drive north west of the capital.

Proud

For most of the team, this was the latest of many trips to Haiti, though the first since the earthquake.

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world and had a tough time feeding and housing its population before the quake.

Ms Rush said: "The people are intelligent, proud and charming. They speak with remarkable frankness about the day their lives changed forever.

"They want to take control. They want to prosper. They are aware of the media coverage they have had and are anxious that the world sees them not as victims but as strong and dignified brothers and sisters."

With around 90 per cent of schools in the capital lost, education will be a major component of the recovery plan for Haiti, she said.

Ms Rush helped teach at a school in Cabaret which had a roll of 220, but just 34 after the tragedy, and she is unsure what happened to many of the pupils.

She said: "There is a tremendous determination to put the past behind and embrace new challenges. The children I spoke to were aspirational. They wanted to be doctors, nurses, teachers and other professionals.

"They are willing and able to confront the poverty they see around them," she said. "They just need some basic assistance: materials and importantly, modern equipment. These teachers have a blackboard. Their pupils have desks. And that is really it."

• ***The Community Pharmacy Gallery is at 16 Market Place, Margate Old Town, CT9 1ES and the dates of the exhibition are Friday, April 30, to Monday, May 4, with opening times of 10am to 6pm.***

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'Covert selection' found in top comprehensives

Grammars marked top in social inclusion table

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S grammar schools are more socially inclusive than many of the UK's best comprehensives, according to a new report.

Researchers at the University of Buckingham found the highest-scoring comprehensives were far less likely to take their fair share of youngsters from disadvantaged homes than the 164 remaining grammars, 33 of which are in Kent.

The report adds that when popular comprehensives are oversubscribed, they often use "covert selection" by accepting children based on faith, how close they live to the school, or – in some cases – by ability.

Kent-based independent education advisor Peter Read told KOS Media he was not surprised.

"I think one of the arguments in favour of grammars is that they give opportunities to disadvantaged children, and this report appears to be confirming that theory," he said.

"The issue with comprehensives stems from the whole league table system, because schools want to attract children who will do the best for them.

"I think it does say something for the grammar debate. The selection system isn't perfect but it's better than a lot of people are alleging.

"What concerns me is that children whose parents don't have the resources will inevitably end up in the worst schools, and that's not good for the country or its future."

The report – commissioned by the Sutton Trust education charity – revealed the 164 top-performing comprehensives took in, on average, only 9.2 per cent of children from deprived homes, compared with 13.5 per cent for the grammars.

Ballot system

It also found that of the 100 most socially selective schools in the country, 91 were comprehensives, eight were grammars and one was a secondary modern.

Sutton Trust chairman Sir Peter Lampl said in the report's foreword that a ballot system was the fairest way of deciding places in oversubscribed schools, but Mr Read said that also had its problems.

He said: "We have a ballot system at the Leigh Technology Academy in Dartford, which works fairly well but it does have the oddity that it will separate families and neighbours. The problem with choosing proximity to the school to decide is that house prices will rise near popular schools, which is precisely what has happened around Valley Park in Maidstone.

"I can't see a system that's fair to everyone. Parents will always work to do the best for their children and you can't blame them for that."

Kent has more grammars than any other county and is one of only a handful that still operates a selective system. Kent County Council has expressed its desire to build at least one new grammar to reduce the pressure for places in west Kent, but neither Labour nor the Conservatives want more grammars built.

Becky Matthews, of the Stop the Eleven Plus (STEP) campaign, said the Sutton Trust report did nothing to alter her anti-grammar stance.

She said: "The report took the highest-performing comprehensives and compared them with grammar schools, so it's no surprise they're more socially exclusive. It would be a different story if you looked at all the comprehensives."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Elderly women hurt in friend's car crash

THREE elderly women were injured when their friend accidentally drove her car into them.

The three pensioners, all from Canterbury and aged 82, 75 and 73, were taken to Margate Hospital with broken bones and are in a serious condition.

The 82-year-old was the most badly hurt. Police are appealing for witnesses to the accident, which happened in Iron Bar Lane, Canterbury, last Sunday at 6pm. Officers say the driver of a red VW Polo was manoeuvring her car when it is believed to have collided with a shop window and then the three women.

The driver – an 89-year-old woman from Canterbury – was not injured. The women all know each other.

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Scouting for volunteers

More adults needed to lead all the youngsters waiting to join

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE biggest membership surge in 38 years suggests the Scouting Movement in Kent is battling back against video games and the internet.

Just over 500 youngsters signed up last year – the largest increase since 1972 – meaning a total of 18,267 are now living Robert Baden-Powell's vision throughout the county.

There are also a record number of teenage Scouts in Kent, with the figure currently standing at 2,427 – about 25 per cent more than when the information was first collated in 2001.

And membership will likely increase for the sixth year running in 2011 if the current 1,000-name waiting list is anything to go by.

Chief Scout Bear Grylls said: "It's fantastic to witness such a huge surge in Scouting – the biggest growth for 38 years – and it is proof that Scouting is appealing more and more to teenagers.

"Scouting is empowering, wild and fun, and offers so many adventure-based activities for young people and adults alike.

"My goal is for every young person that wants to be involved in Scouting to be able to be. So I hope to inspire even more adults to volunteer and help this happen."

The Scout Movement began in 1907 when Baden-Powell – a Lieutenant General in the British Army – held the first Scouting encampment at Brownsea Island in Dorset.

His aim from the beginning was to support young people in their "physical, mental and spiritual development", so they could play constructive roles in society.

The movement has grown ever since and today there are more than 28 million Scouts around the world, with girls also now allowed to join.

And despite recent technological advancements such as video gaming and the internet, the Scouts have adapted to change with successful ideas such as the IT badge.

However, the movement still relies heavily on exciting outdoor activities such as camping, water-skiing and abseiling to draw youngsters in.

Picture: JOHN HUNT

HAPPY DAYS: An increasing number of children are signing up to join in the fun

But despite the membership surge in Kent, the increase in volunteers is less than one per cent – well below the UK average of 3.1 per cent. This means the number of children on the Scout waiting list is up by a massive 23.8 per cent from last year compared to the national average of 0.4 per cent.

Kent leader John Hunt urged other would-be volunteers to follow in his footsteps.

He said: "I absolutely love being a leader.

"I decided to get involved because I wanted to give something back to young people in my community, but I've really benefited as well.

"I've been able to transfer the skills I've developed as a leader to my day job, and that's been really important to me."

Visit www.kentscouts.org.uk to find out more and get involved.

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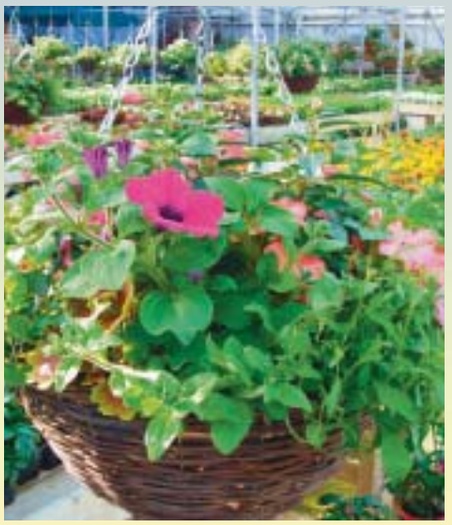

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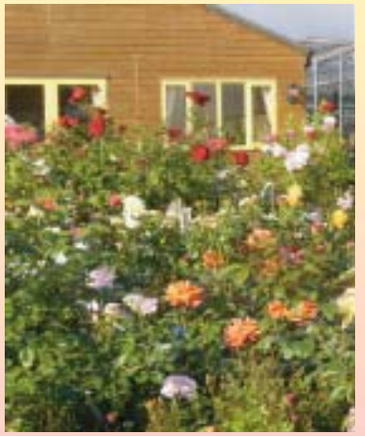

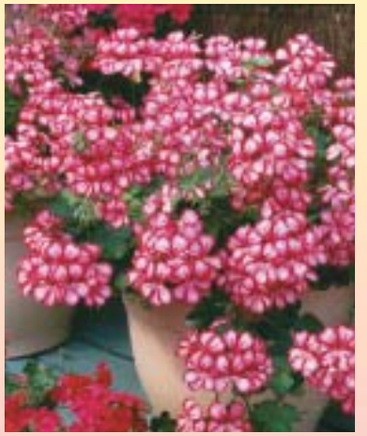

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Hero's return

TOP FLIGHT: Colonel John Ulricson on the wing of the Mustang plane 'Lolita' during the war. The 95-year-old will visit Staplehurst in June for the memorial ceremony

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

SOME 67 years ago a quiet village in the Kent countryside became the centre of a thriving airfield for pilots fighting in World War Two.

Staplehurst was a base for squadrons from the Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Army Air Force from 1943-44, during the build-up to the Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe.

Built as a temporary advanced landing ground prior to the 1944 invasion of Normandy, the 400-acre site, east of the village at Chickenden Farm, became a significant airfield in the battle.

Canadian squadrons flew on a daily basis from the base, escorting daylight bombing raids over France, Holland and Germany.

In 1944, Colonel John Ulricson, group commander of the 9th USAAF, led 52 P51 Mustang fighters from Staplehurst to escort American bombers to their targets in Germany.

They were also required to dive-bomb military targets and knock out bridges. Just months after the Americans arrived at Staplehurst, 43 Mustangs had been lost, with the pilots either killed or prisoners of war.

The airfield closed in 1944 as the fighting moved across the Channel and there is little left to indicate it played such a crucial wartime role. As a tribute to those who gave their lives, Ted Sergison, who lives in the village, founded the Staplehurst Airfield Memorial Project. A memorial with a polished granite insert bearing the badges of the three Canadian squadrons and the 9th USAAF, plus a picture of a P51 Mustang, the plane used by Col Ulricson's squadron, is to be unveiled in June.

Col Ulricson, now aged 95, is travelling from the United States for the ceremony.

Mr Sergison said: "It would be intolerable to allow the memory of the Canadian and American airmen who flew from Staplehurst to fade away unacknowledged.

"The memorial will provide a focus for pilgrimage and remembrance for years to come. We must honour and respect all those who flew from the landing ground – and the many who never returned."

On Sunday, June 6, a service of remembrance and thanksgiving is being held at All Saints' Church in the village, from 2pm. The unveiling of the memorial will then take place at the old airfield, followed by a flypast.

Russell and Lesley Sparkes, owners of the Hawkenbury Country Inn, have supported the project by selling 'Colonel Ulricson's Commemorative Staplehurst Bitter', with labels by Ale and Arty Ltd.

The company, which creates bespoke beer labels, is donating 50p of every bottle sold to the memorial fund. Mr and Mrs Sparkes are also sponsoring the flight and accommodation for Col Ulricson.

To buy the specialist bitter, visit www.aleandarty.co.uk/samp.html.

Mum and boyfriend deny murdering battered tot

A 21-month-old boy died after he "suffered a great number of injuries" inflicted by his mother or her boyfriend, a court heard.

The Old Bailey was told that Bobby Louch was beaten at his home in Halcot Avenue, Bexleyheath, and was covered in bruises.

Collette Harris, 30, of Chapel Close, Dartford, and James Phillips, 25, of Dale View, Erith, denied murdering the child on December 29, 2008.

They also denied an alternative charge of causing or allowing his death.

Prosecutor Richard Whittam, told the jury that when Bobby died "he was recovering from a broken leg" sustained about 20 days earlier.

The child had also suffered a burn on his right hand. The two most severe problems were caused by a blow to his abdomen and a head injury.

Mr Whittam said the head injury meant the child was "unlikely to have been remotely normal thereafter", and the abdomen injury was the result of "significant direct trauma" such as a punch or a kick.

Bobby was taken to hospital from his home, but died from multiple injuries. Mr Whittam said the child had 40 injuries to his head and body caused by kicking and punching.

These included two broken ribs, bleeding in the spine, massive damage to the brain and severe injuries to the abdomen, including a damaged liver and pancreas.

The injuries to his brain and abdomen were both potentially fatal. Bobby's face had been covered in bruises which were less than 48 hours old.

The jury heard that Harris ended her relationship with Bobby's father, Dan Louch, in October, 2008, and took up with Phillips.

The trial continues.

Steel rope reins in foreign offenders

NEW powers are helping Kent Police clamp down on foreign motorists who had been getting away with serious breaches of the law, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Since last year, the force has had the power to disable vehicles belonging to overseas visitors if they can't pay on-the-spot fines.

Between April, 2009, and March, 2010, Kent officers immobilised 125 vehicles using a steel rope padlocked around a wheel and the chassis. Police say the new law also means there have been fewer collisions and casualties on the county's roads.

Kent Police said that between April and October, 2008, there were 43 collisions and 68 casualties on our roads involving non-UK registered goods vehicles.

During the same period the following year, that fell to 34 collisions and 47 casualties.

TIED UP: Steel cable immobilises vehicle

Before the new laws, police said their hands were tied. Officers were unable to issue fixed penalty notices to non-UK registered drivers because there was no guarantee a penalty would be paid within 28 days.

There was also no provision for checking whether or not they had already committed previous offences that would lead to an automatic driving disqualification in the UK.

The powers were given by the Road Safety Act 2006, which received its national launch in Kent in April, 2009.

It ensures traffic legislation is now applied to all drivers on UK roads. Provisions allow non-UK drivers, and even British residents who can't provide a valid address, to be handed roadside fines of up to £900. Police can request immediate deposit in sterling or by credit card.

If they can't pay, the vehicle is immobilised until payment is made. Police can also immobilise defective vehicles until they are repaired, or until commercial vehicle drivers have taken a break if they exceed permitted driving times.

Officers say fear of detection is now higher because of the new enforcement tactics.

In the first year of the scheme, Kent Police have taken 1,464 'roadside deposits' amounting to £40,500. The fines are audited, and the cash goes to Treasury coffers.

A Kent Police spokesman said: "As with all penalty notices, we do not retain any revenue or receive administration costs, so there is no cash incentive.

"The introduction of the deposit scheme allows police to enforce the law fairly and consistently, regardless of where drivers are from."

The head of Kent Police's roads unit, Chief Insp Andy Reeves, said: "The legislation has helped us deal more effectively with non-UK residents who commit driving offences.

"The scheme provides a much fairer system whereby motorists are treated the same regardless of who they are and where they are from and brings us into line with other European countries."

News and sport updated daily online
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She blazed a trail to the top

BRITAIN'S first female chief constable visited Kent to encourage more women to go for top police jobs.

Pauline Clare, who was the Lancashire Constabulary's most senior officer between 1995 and 2002, shared her knowledge and experience with members of the Kent force as part of a two-day 'gender progression' event.

The 62-year-old, who now works as an executive coach and trainer, said women being appointed to top positions made it more likely others would follow in their footsteps.

She said: "I still didn't go out to specifically encourage women to progress through the ranks because I would have been discriminating against the men. I treated people fairly.

"More women did start going for top jobs, not because I did or said anything, but I was a role model and took that very seriously."

Mrs Clare was invited by Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes, who earlier this month voiced disappointment that only one woman – who failed to make the final shortlist – applied for the county's vacant chief constable's job.

There are 1,036 female officers employed by the Kent force, the highest-ranked being Det Chief Supt Debbie Doe.

Mrs Barnes said she had been working towards improving the progression of women within Kent Police, which now has a gender strategy group.

FAIR COP: Pauline Clare, centre, with ACC Allyn Thomas and Ann Barnes

The London Laser Nail Clinic are proud to support the Hookers and Hackers Charity Golf day 2010

The London Laser Nail Clinic are proud to be sponsoring the Hookers and Hackers Charity golf day, this year the chosen charity is Hospice in the Weald they provide specialist palliative care advice and clinical support for people with life limiting illness, their family and the bereaved. Established since 1980, Hospice In The Weald comprises a 17 bed In-Patient Unit and a Day Therapy Centre offering a range of treatments, complementary therapies and clinics.

More than 10 million people in the UK suffer from unsightly, uncomfortable and embarrassing nail fungus.

Combating these infections can be a long disheartening process. The PinPointe FootLaser treats toe and finger nail fungus safely and effectively - usually in one treatment. The London Nail Laser Clinic, set up by Podiatrists are now reviewing patients since their first treatment last year and are thrilled with the huge improvements as the nails grow out fungus free. The patented technique, widely available in America targets the fungal cells under and around the nail.

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www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk

Hookers & Hackers
www.thehookersandhackers.co.uk

New threat of malaria from the mosquitoes on marsh

PESKY: Mosquitoes could trigger an outbreak

MOSQUITOES found in the Kent marshes could trigger an outbreak of malaria when holidaymakers unknowingly bring parasites home from the tropics, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Although experts say the risk is low, a groundbreaking study, one of the first since malaria was eradicated from the UK in the 1950s, is being undertaken to create control strategies against potentially dangerous mosquitoes.

Dr Yvonne-Marie Linton, a biomedical researcher from the Natural History Museum, has been working at the Cliffe Marshes on the Isle of Grain in Medway, where a specific type of the insect is found.

Known as the anopheles daciae, it is one of 70 of the 3,525 species capable of transmitting malaria. After World War Two this species caused the spread of the disease within schools in the county, after they bit homebound soldiers who were carrying the malarial parasite.

Dr Linton said her study will assess their biodiversity.

"By knowing the enemy and where they breed, targeted mosquito control strategies can be deployed against only those potentially dangerous mosquitoes," she said.

Malaria, which affects around 500 million people worldwide each year and kills two million, was eliminated completely from the UK after the World Health Organisation launched the Global Malaria Eradication Programme in 1955.

In Africa, however, the disease remains a massive problem, with one child dying from it every 30 seconds. It is spread by anopheles mosquitoes – such as those found in Kent – carrying the plasmodium parasite.

The growth of global travel means cases are now becoming more common.

Vigilant

Dr Linton said: "Possible routes of reintroduction into the UK include travellers returning with malaria and stowaway mosquitoes. As well as our own discovery of anopheles, another new species has recently been discovered in southern England by other researchers and this means we are not clear on the distribution on our shores.

"This in part is due to the notion that since we no longer have malaria here we do not need to worry about our mosquitoes in the UK. Given that mosquitoes can potentially spread other diseases, such as dengue and West Nile virus, we still need to be vigilant and create a plan of action should these disease become a problem in the future."

Dr Linton said by carrying out the study potentially dangerous mosquitoes can be stopped by using DNA samples to target the anopheles capable of carrying malaria.

A study by the Health Protection Agency found more than 6,000 cases of the most dangerous form – falciparum malaria – in the UK between 2002 and 2006, which was blamed on people returning from tropical countries.

Although treatable by several different medicines in the UK, for poorer countries, funding is not available for drugs and preventive measures against the disease.

Symptoms of malaria include headaches, high temperatures, headaches, diarrhoea and muscle pain.

Cuckoos spring into seasonal song

THE first cuckoo of spring has been heard at the RSPB Dungeness Reserve.

The first of the visitors from Africa was heard on Sunday, April 18, a week later than last year.

Chris Hawkins, Dungeness visitor centre manager, said: "Some of the birds will be passing through on route to elsewhere, but others will stay at Dungeness to breed.

"Dungeness makes it easier to spot them because of the wide, open landscape."

Cuckoos' recent population decline has seen its addition to the Red List of birds of high conservation concern.

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Picture: NTPL/STUART COX

PATH TO GREATNESS: The National Trust is focusing on Chartwell's gardens and wildlife

Chartwell blossoms as ghost of greatest Briton watches on

By **JANE CONNOLLY**
jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than 40 years after his death, the legacy of Sir Winston Churchill can still be felt in every aspect of Chartwell.

The imposing house at Westerham, with its staggering views of the Weald, was the much-loved home of the former Prime Minister for four decades.

Today, visitors from all over the world visit this tranquil place, to follow in the footsteps of the man who led Britain to victory in World War Two.

Churchill made very few visits to Chartwell during the war, but when peace was finally secured, the house became his family home once again and would provide his retreat from the world for the rest of his life.

As I strolled through the grounds I met an elderly woman from Beckenham who was resting on a bench enjoying the spring sunshine and the peace of Chartwell.

"I love it here, I've been bringing my family here for many years," she said. "Churchill was my husband's idol and my own. It's so tranquil here."

For many visitors, Chartwell's connection to a national hero makes the experience even more special. But the estate has more to offer than poignant memories of the man voted Greatest Briton in a 2002 public poll.

Chartwell is more than a museum and its bright future owes much to the vision of its former owner.

As general manager Philippa Rawlinson guided me around the extensive grounds she revealed how the National Trust is continuing Churchill's work by focusing on the estate's gardens and wildlife.

When Churchill bought the estate in 1922, the house was run down, but it was the wonderful views that brought the politician to Westerham.

"We want to focus on the gardens because that's what Churchill came here for," she said.

"Even during the war he would write to the gardener here and ask if he had enough sugar for the bees and so on. They would send fruit and vegetables from the kitchen garden up to London for him.

"Now the kitchen garden is productive again we make sure the fruit and vegetables are used in the restaurant and the flowers are used in the house."

Although Churchill's role in history is well-known to older generations, one of Chartwell's responsibilities is to keep his memory alive for younger visitors.

"Churchill does have a tremendous resonance for people around the world and we have lots of visitors from America and the Continent," she said.

"The challenge for me going forward is that the generation that knew what he did is moving on. It's common now that they remember his state funeral more than him as a state leader.

"How do you engage the next generation with Churchill and show them why he was such an important character?

Picture: NTPL/ROBERT MORRIS

HOME: Winston Churchill bought the estate in 1922 and moved there after the war

"We are bringing in a learning and events officer to do more with them."

The gardens will play a key role in this new approach to captivating children and making Churchill a vibrant and meaningful figure in their eyes.

"I think that without Churchill and what he did during World War Two the modern world would be a very different place," Ms Rawlinson said.

"It is important children understand how we got to where we are and how one man can make such a difference. Children like to learn and they are inquisitive. Our job is to tempt them and make history come alive and be relevant today.

"We are introducing a garden plot for them to get involved in because gardening was an important part of childhood in the 30s and 40s. It's about drawing them in and sparking their imagination."

Once children have been encouraged to get their hands dirty and learn about growing their own vegetables, they will also have the chance to play in the Marycot – a quaint little playhouse built for Churchill's youngest daughter, Mary – and think about how they might serve the food during a meal.

The legacy of Churchill can even be seen in these simple activities and it is hoped his influence will be felt in modern society.

"There is a lot of talk about family values at the moment and Churchill had very strong family values," Ms Rawlinson said.

"His children sat down to dinner with some quite distinguished guests. He was politically active when he was here, but Chartwell was still his family home."

ALTHOUGH Churchill did not take up painting until he was 40, Chartwell's glorious views would prove to be a huge inspiration.

Many of his works can be seen in the studio at Chartwell and studio guide Jan Carter told me more about Churchill's creative attachment to the house.

"One of the key reasons he bought the house was its views," she said.

"His nanny, Mrs Everest, had always extolled the virtues of Kent as the Garden of England and he always wanted to live with those views. We have a painting he did of the view from the picnic field in 1938.

"I often wonder what was going through his mind as he painted it, because there was a lot going on in the world at that time."

Painting was one of the many ways in which Churchill filled his spare time, which was necessary to keep his persistent depression at bay. He was also a skilled bricklayer and built much of the wall that surrounds the kitchen garden.

"He always had to keep busy because of his 'black dog', as he called it," Ms Rawlinson said.

"It was under control if he could achieve what he wanted to achieve.

"He was a very complex person and he knew himself very well."

As Chartwell looks to the future the focus will be on making the most of its beautiful gardens. But much of the inspiration is taken from the past, from a family man who fell in love with the estate.

This year, butterflies will once again be reared and released from the butterfly house, a ritual which Churchill himself enjoyed so many years ago.

"I can just imagine the children's faces when they saw the butterflies," Ms Rawlinson said.

"We would not have done that if Churchill had not done it. The family would have found it magical and we want to make it magical again."

Chartwell is currently open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am-5pm, and will also be open on Tuesdays from July 7 to August 24.

For more information call 01732 866368 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

FACT FILE:

- Chartwell was the home of Sir Winston Churchill and his family for 40 years. There has been a house on the site since at least the 16th century, and although the building had fallen into disrepair by the time Churchill bought the estate in September, 1922, he was captivated by the wonderful views across the Weald.
- Churchill's wife, Clementine, was concerned by the strain that Chartwell would place on the family's finances, particularly as Churchill was keen to make constant improvements. When a group of their friends and admirers bought the estate and presented it to the National Trust in 1946, on the proviso that the couple could live there for the rest of their lives, Clementine was better able to relax and enjoy her role at Chartwell.
- When Churchill died in 1965, Clementine moved out of Chartwell, but continued to take an active interest in the estate. She made regular visits to the house until her death in 1977, at the age of 92.
- The house takes its name from the Chart Well, which rises at the top of the property and is used to fill the estate's lakes and other water features.

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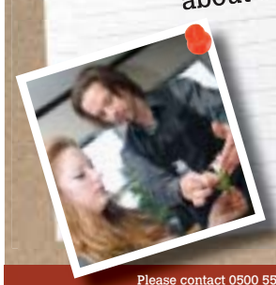

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Weather hitting the right notes

AN UNUSUAL project to make music from the weather is taking place in Kent next month.

And it will be free for people to go along and see and hear near Dungeness.

Campbell Scientific makes meteorological equipment and is sponsoring the project.

The work is called Variable 4 and climaxes in a 24-hour installation to create weird music from the weather.

Artists will be setting up scientific instruments from Campbell in the days before the public performance. These pick up changes in the weather patterns in the area, and these signals will be fed live into specially written computer software.

This in turn is used to create unique patterns of custom-composed musical forms that will be broadcast live on-site for the 24-hour period using speakers blended into the landscape.

It is hoped the output will also be streamed over the internet which means the whole world has the chance to tune into the musical magic of the Dungeness weather.

Iain Thornton, marketing manager for Campbell Scientific, said: "This is an exciting project; a fantastic blend of meteorological science and art. We have lent the guys the kind of weather station normally used in research projects in some of the most challenging environments on the planet – so a spring day on a Kent beach will make a pleasant change."

The project, brainchild of experimental artists and composers Daniel Jones and James Bulley, has been awarded funding by the PRS for Music Foundation.

Mr Jones said: "We hope many will stay for the full 24 hours so as to experience the full range of transitions."

The RNLI is accommodating the event at its lifeboat station on Dungeness seafront.

A date for the performance is still being finalised. For more visit www.variable4.org.uk.

MEET PIXIE LOTT AND WIN A VIP DAY AT Bluewater®
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ONE lucky person and three friends have the chance to win a VIP day out at Bluewater, Europe's leading retail and leisure destination, and be the first in the queue to meet British pop sensation, Pixie Lott.

Pixie will be unveiling her new fashion range The Pixie Collection for leading high street brand Lipsy (www.lipsy.co.uk) at the Bluewater store on Wednesday, April 28, from 4-6pm.

The collection comprises of two distinct looks – Pixie Festival and Pixie Party – both inspired by her own rock chick-style which perfectly compliments Lipsy's signature style.

Not only will the winner and friends meet Bromley's Pixie, they will each receive an exclusive vest top from The Pixie Collection, released that day, a signed copy of her album Turn It Up, plus dinner for four with dessert and soft drinks at LEON Bluewater (www.leonrestaurants.co.uk).

Complete the VIP experience at Bluewater with a spot of shopping at any of the 330 high street and designer stores!

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Pixie Lott Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

LEON

Question: What is the correct name for Pixie Lott's recent single?

A) Mama Do
B) Daddy Do
C) Baby Do

The closing date is Tuesday, April 27. Please make sure all entrants are free on Wednesday, April 28, to go to Bluewater; the winner will be contacted on Tuesday, April 27.

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Cut to the quick by the bad apples

WHATEVER happened to 'innocent until proven guilty'? Those words clearly didn't mean a thing to the two former Kent Police officers who roughed up Anthony Colcomb in his own home, despite having little or no evidence he had actually done anything wrong.

Those who join the police should do so because they want to make a positive difference, not because they want to do whatever they want to whoever gets in the way.

Fortunately, in the case of Mr Colcomb, a more level-headed officer told his superiors what had taken place – but have similar incidents been swept under the carpet?

One of Kent Police's key aims is to increase public confidence, but how can people be confident when this sort of thing happens?

To their credit, Kent Police sacked Mr Colcomb's attackers after their conviction, but it is clear more needs to be done to let officers and staff know just what is acceptable.

Because threatening somebody with a knife is certainly not.

Keep on running

THOUSANDS of spirited runners will take to the capital's streets today for the 29th London Marathon.

And if the efforts of Kent's competitors are anything to go by, the true winners will be the charities so many are raising funds for.

So on behalf of the RSPCA, Cancer Research and all the others set to benefit, we wish you all the very best of luck.

OPINION: Let there be more light

Michael Lingard of Lighter Later says it's time we took on the benefits of shifting our clocks forward permanently

DURING grey economic times in our grey yet pleasant land, we all know there's a limited amount of sunlight every day.

We can't do much about that, but we'd all love to enjoy more than we have at present.

The solution to this conundrum is right under our noses; or, to be more precise, is staring us in the face. The clock face, that is.

Yes, simply by adjusting the arbitrary choice of our timekeeping in relation to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), we could all have more daylight.

Lighter Later is the name of the campaign aiming to make such a change. Lighter Later is about shifting Britain's clocks forward by one hour throughout the year.

In other words, instead of setting our clocks to GMT in winter and GMT+1 in summer, we would set them to GMT+1 in winter and GMT+2 in summer.

We would still put our clocks forward in spring and back in autumn, but the sun would rise and set one hour later throughout the year, which would mean more people are up and about when there is daylight.

It could be light until 11pm in summer and not dark till 6pm in winter.

The benefits this simple action would bring are almost too numerous to note, but include:

Make us happier by reducing the effects of seasonal affective disorder (SAD) – and even happier by having lower electricity bills from increased daylight time. It would reduce CO_2 emissions dramatically, saving almost half a million tonnes.

The health and safety benefits would be sufficient alone. Reduced road accidents and deaths would save the NHS £138m a year and more than 100 lives. It's been estimated this extended daylight would create up to 80,000 new jobs in leisure and tourism, bringing extra billions into the economy.

The extended day would enable people to exercise or play sport more after work or school, helping tackle obesity and improving health. Longer light with Lighter Later could well mean longer life.

Longer evenings would stimulate more community activities and reduce crime and the fear of crime, as more people would be out and about at night.

For campaigners concerned about climate change, it would demonstrate taking the right action to help the environment can be good for us all. Being greener needn't mean deprivation.

Although this idea has been around for years and was put into practice in the war years, it has been given a boost by 10:10, a climate change campaign with the aim of getting individuals, companies and institutions to reduce their carbon footprint by 10 per cent during 2010.

In early 2009, Franny Armstrong a film-maker and director of 10:10 was walking through Regent's Park to her first public debate with climate minister Ed Miliband.

The Climate Safety report had identified a 10 per cent cut in the UK's emissions by the end of 2010 as the level of cuts we should be making if we are to maximise our chances of not triggering a climate catastrophe.

Franny dropped the freshly formed 10:10 idea into that evening's debate with Mr Miliband. It was simple, catchy, meaningful and something that everyone – from big brands to schools and families – would be able to get involved in. People could relate to 2010, but not easily to 2050. There are now hundreds of companies, institutions, schools and organisations signed up to the challenge.

Thousands of individuals are following suit, not only because of the climate issue but simply to save resources and money by reducing energy consumption.

Where the world's leaders fear to go, hundreds of thousands of individuals are leading the way to a better, healthier life.

As Pete Postlethwaite's character says in the The Age Of Stupid: "We wouldn't be the first lifeform to wipe itself out. But what would be unique about us is that we did it knowingly."

And there's the crux. We are the most intelligent creatures ever to evolve. The first to understand how overstretching resources to an extinction pathway works, and the first with the potential to jump off that pathway before it's too late.

• Michael Lingard lives in Hawkhurst. For more information on Lighter Later and 10:10 visit www.1010uk.org.

Thrown by this horse

What is Gravesham council's regulatory board doing, unanimously approving a 50-metre-high lump in the countryside?

Have they collectively had an emperor's new clothes moment?

Mark Wallinger's self-indulgent vision is irrelevant. The convoluted relationship of our immigrant history, the importation of horses and Epsom Downs is too far-fetched.

If having a large international station in the middle of nowhere isn't enough to put you on the map as the council wants, just sit back and wait a few years.

The mutual dependence of the station and the massive building programme planned around it will inevitably lead to another Thames road crossing near Gravesend.

As with Dartford, everyone will know of the Gravesend (or Ebbsfleet) crossing. It's a way of justifying exponential building work – the pattern was set at Ashford.

By creating a bogus 'International' station to act as a hub, it became a formality to rubber-stamp any and all development in the area. Then the station's importance was downgraded. As for the horse, why not something that people can more readily relate to?

Beautiful 200ft cricket stumps rising skywards? Or how about a similarly proportioned beer pump handle? Either symbol would remind people leaving these shores of something they may miss while away, and for those arriving, something to look forward to with joy. Anything but that horse.

Bill Stevens, Faversham

Harbouring a few doubts

Each time there is a glitch in Continental travel there is no safety valve to get travellers to France – other than Eurotunnel and the Dover ferries.

Folkestone – with its unique, built-in harbour station – could be developed to take high-speed trains right up to the boat, for a quick catamaran trip to Boulogne. Yet this small port remains unused, in the hands of property developers who have no interest in any marine activities, despite the desperate need.

A great shame.

Andy Cadier, Folkestone

Cancer vote campaign

People don't choose to have cancer and they don't choose which cancer they get, but the General Election gives us all the opportunity to choose how we treat the one in three people who are unlucky enough to get it.

Macmillan has been campaigning to improve the support offered to the two million people living with and beyond cancer, improve access to treatments for rarer cancers, and for better out-of-hours care for people nearing the end of their lives.

I want our parliamentary candidates to support these proposals to improve cancer care in the UK. We need to keep the pressure on and I want to encourage others to get parliamentary candidates to sign up to the Vote Cancer Support campaign by going to the website: www.macmillan.org.uk/vote.

Michelle Byrne, Folkestone

Time for real change

The party leaders' television debates have made this the most interesting election for years. Nick Clegg's brilliant performance, which impressed so many, may be the end of 60 years of Labour/Conservative government.

If everyone who would now like Mr Clegg to be Prime Minister and Vince Cable to be Chancellor votes that way – votes Liberal Democrat – then we really will have the fresh start we all want.

Two years ago, US President Barack Obama came from small beginnings to inspire his country to greatness. I believe we are at a similar moment now.

Antony Hook, Deal

Uplifted by wise words

Thank you, Mr Granger, for your kind comments by me, John Gamet – not Gamut.

Indeed, perhaps Gamut would be more appropriate as I find Mr Granger's letters interesting, amusing and informative – all carefully thought out and structured.

However, this time I award the prize to Mr Duff for his plea to Shepway council regarding the Leas water-powered cliff lift.

If memory serves (and here perhaps I should have taken a leaf out of Mr Granger's book and researched the subject) it was running costs that were the problem – £60,000 per annum? My opinion was that this was short-sighted, as an operational cliff lift of historical value would be another tourist attraction for Folkestone. This lift should be preserved as part of our heritage.

John Gamet, Keston

I don't agree with Nick

Much has been made of Nick Clegg's performance in the first television debate.

But it's easy for the leader of a party that hasn't had the responsibility of government for nearly 100 years – and is unlikely to have it in the next 100 – to criticise those who have had to make difficult decisions.

Especially as the Lib Dems are notorious for blowing with any popular wind. In any case, if Mr Clegg was on the panel, why not the leaders of other no-hope parties – UKIP, BNP and the Moster Raving Loonies?

We have party political broadcasts which set out the various policies, so there is no need for personal confrontations. We elect a government, not a president.

Sid Genny, Faversham

It's called democracy

Two of your correspondents make a point that 'the powers that be' never listen to what 'the people' want. But 'the people' comprise millions of individuals, all with their own ideas, so it's impossible for any government or council to do what 'the people' want. What they mean is the big parties don't always do what your correspondents want, which isn't surprising. They often don't do what I want, but I don't assume I represent 'the people'.

Emma Herst, Sittingbourne

Largesse for lawyers

Am I the only person to think the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq war to be a waste of money? Each side is so certain it is right that no inquiry will alter their minds and whatever the result the losing side will cry foul. It seems the only gainers are the lawyers and I object to contributing to their largesse.

Grant Polen, Canterbury

Letters continued on page 30

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

LANCEFIELD
Charles and Kate are pleased to announce the birth of Emily Kate Lancefield on 6th April 2010 at The Buckland Hospital, Dover, weighing 8lb 13oz .

LEE
Eliza Grace Lee was born 9th April 2010, to Patrick and Jessica Lee of Canterbury and sister to Ruby.

REEVES
Mollie born on the 3rd April 2010, weighing 8lb 2oz. Daughter to Rob and Emma of Hythe. Sister to Charlie.

MATTHEWS
Siobhan and Stuart are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Lily Rachel May Matthews on 9th April 2010, weighing 9lb 10oz. Sister to Kirsty, Lauren, Daniel and Thomas.

SCHIPPERS
Julie and Jeroen Schippers are delighted to announce the birth of their son Lucas Christopher Bernardus on the 7th April 2010.

HUMPHREYS
Tulisa Patricia born on 2nd April 2010, weighing 6lb 0oz. Daughter to James and Anna in Maidstone.

WILLOWS
Amy and Alan of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Reggie Beau Willows, born on 10th April 2010 at QEQM Hospital.

FOX-PERCY
Osten William born weighing 8lb 7oz on 9th April 2010 to very proud parents.

HORGAN
Liam and Sally Horgan celebrate the birth of their daughter Sienna Mae Olivia Horgan on 13th April 2010.

ROLANDSEN
Sarah-Jane and Bjorn of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Harry James Bjorn Rolandsen, born on 6th April 2010 at QEQM Hospital. Brother to Alfie-Lee and Frankie-Jane.

DEATHS

IVES
June Irene, 17th June 1929 to 10th April 2010. June, formerly of Borough Green, passed away on Saturday 10th April 2010 to be reunited with her husband Bren. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Rest In Peace. Funeral has already taken place.

WELLER
Jennifer Weller passed away peacefully on the morning of Tuesday 13th April 2010. Service to be held at St Thomas Moore Church West Malling at 11am on Monday 26th April. Flowers welcomed or donations to the Dogs Trust.

GALE
Bob Gale of Folkestone passed away on the 14th April 2010. Enquiries to Hambrook and Johns, Folkestone.

WESTBROOK
John Westbrook died suddenly on 10th April 2010, will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Letters continued from page 29

A few universal truths

Inspired by Doug Cheverst's recent letter, I am glad to find there are other people capable of using perspective in their assessments.

Anyone who watched Professor Brian Cox's recent series on this planet and the universe would realise how preposterous it is to think that man and his motor car can outwit the processing of the solar system.

The power that controls it all is almost beyond comprehension. These are the programmes that should be compulsory in schools, not Al Gore's propaganda.

The timely saga of the Iceland volcano endorses my views on the subject.

David R Hedges, Chatham

Sorry, you don't exist

Train company Southeastern trumpets the ease of season ticket renewals over the internet, but fails to admit the service doesn't work.

A friend tried to renew by this method, having held an annual season ticket for years, only to be told by the Cannon Street office that he couldn't renew as the office had no record of him being at his address.

Yet this information would have been on record at the old season ticket office (then recently closed) at Tonbridge, so staff would have been able to see this on records which had been transferred to Cannon Street.

What had clearly happened was that they had been looking at the edited, rather than the full, version of the Register of Electors, despite the fact that companies are entitled to consult the full version for the purpose of checking customers' creditworthiness.

A complaint was subsequently made to Southeastern's management, who refused to take it seriously. This is unsatisfactory and needs to be brought to the attention of the public, as there must be many other victims.

Daniel Bates, Sevenoaks

Electing to ignore issue

The exceptional risks of climate change are being airbrushed out of this General Election by most parties.

The Green Party believes cuts in UK greenhouse gas emissions of 10 per cent a year will be needed for many years. Recent research shows the effects of aviation and shipping pollution to be considerably worse than previous expectations, and airport expansion in Kent should be halted due to their certain impacts on climate.

With Manston and Lydd both showing recent major financial losses, this provides another reason to accept Kent Green Party's argument that these sites should be used as all-weather leisure centres.

Even more startling is research showing that up to 39,000 people in the European Union are dying prematurely each year as a result of pollution from shipping.

Since all of Kent's ports, but particularly Dover, are trying to expand, this pollution now becomes critically important. The longer we wait to act, the higher the costs will be.

The scientific and political consensus about the need to deal with human-induced climate change has never been wider than today.

Kent and Medway are significantly exposed to the risk of wetter winters and hotter summers.

Kent's coastline and estuaries are vulnerable to significant changes unless cuts of about 90 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions are achieved by 2050. But Kent County Council's new draft Local Transport Plan does not even propose measures to cut traffic year on year in order to help achieve this target.

Kent's older growth forests play a part in storing carbon dioxide. However, if stressed by summer droughts, we could see a major loss of trees during the next few decades.

Dr Geoff Meaden, Kent Green Party

Our European fault line

Surely Tory leader David Cameron understands that a huge number of people in this country do not want to be in the EU.

Gordon Brown and Nick Clegg will drag us further and further into Europe when most people can see no advantage in being there, but many disadvantages

Mr Cameron should remember France and Germany always wanted to run this country and are doing so without firing a shot. What does he think the world wars were about?

He could wipe the smiles from his opponents' faces by promising a referendum on EU membership in the first Parliament and the country would be behind him.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

No time for cowardice

All three main party leaders are guilty of cowardice, because the overriding issue, barely mentioned by any of them and which will probably decide the outcome of the General Election, is Europe.

I remind everyone of a pamphlet called Britain's New Deal in Europe, circulated (late in 1973 or January, 1974) by Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister.

I quote: "No important new policy can be reached in Brussels or anywhere else without the consent of the British Minister answerable to a British Government and British Parliament." So much for Labour promises.

Neither Margaret Thatcher nor Tony Blair were any better. David Cameron reneged on a promise to hold a referendum on the EU. So much for Conservative promises.

The major issues may be immigration, climate change, the economy, health, crime and punishment, banking, education, defence, etc, but they are all subordinate if Britons are not in direct control of key decisions.

All parties have aided and abetted a steady transfer of power to Brussels. And this erosion continues.

We need a full debate on Britain's future in Europe, followed by a referendum. I challenge our leaders to get their heads out of the sand.

Ian R Elliott, Whitstable

You've a choice of five

If senior Tory George Osborne wants to help small business, then the first thing the Conservatives need to do is take this country out of the EU.

The think tank Open Europe says implementing EU regulations has cost British businesses £124 billion since 1998.

Anyone incensed by Brussels costing us that amount and for taking £45 million every day from British taxpayers when people here are suffering and dying needlessly because the NHS cannot afford to treat them properly, should vote for one of the five political parties that say we should leave the EU.

They are: UKIP, Socialist Labour Party (founded by Arthur Scargill who says membership of the EU has ruined Britain), the BNP, English Democrats and No2EU.

Voting Labour, Tory or Lib Dem will only give us more of the same old treachery, because they are commited to handing Britain over to the EU.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

Weather is not climate

In reply to Doug Cheverst on climate issues, I would point out that the winter of 1911-12 that caught out the Titanic, iceberg-wise, was a weather event and nothing to do with population or industrialisation.

The weather is what happens over a few years or decades within an overall climate, which happens, usually, over thousands or millions of years.

The same can be said of the 1953 floods of Eastern England which were just an unusual combination of events.

Since then though, as it can take some 30 years or more for CO2 levels to reach the upper atmosphere and for the climate to react to such, it has clearly been shown that overall global temperatures have risen regularly since the mid 20th century.

The latest review, which again points to man-made influences only and updates the 2007 InterGov Panel report, was published in the Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews of Climate Change, in March, with Dr Peter Stott saying: "The fingerprint of human influence is in many aspects of observed climate change."

The sun's activity is also not at fault for recent changes as published in the US magazine Science in March, 2009, and re-iterated in the above.

As for the suggestion of scientists' claims for more funding, I quote Prof Tim Palmer, who recently said: "People who believe in a global conspiracy don't understand the process of science or its practitioners."

Meanwhile, the current eruption of the Eyafjallajokull volcano in Iceland will only affect things for a short time. It would need something monumental, like the Toba eruption 74,000 years ago, to affect things long-term globally.

Maybe Mother Nature is backing climate scientists, who point out that aviation emissions are the fastest growing risk from CO2 to worsening global warming. I suggest people vote only for the Green Party or Lib Dems at the General Election. Whoever gets in, we must all press strongly for an end to ID cards, Trident and all the money – over £100 billion – switched to the Green New Deal, without support for new nuclear stations, so as to help change our overall social, economic and environment circumstances for the better.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Surviving disasters

A world expert on how people behave in disasters is appealing for help from people who have been evacuated from their homes or public buildings during floods or serious fires in the past 10 years.

Professor Ed Galea, from the University of Greenwich, uses his insights from talking to people who have survived disasters to improve building designs and evacuation procedures around the world.

His work with thousands of survivors, including people who escaped from the World Trade Center on 9/11, plane crashes and the Paddington rail disaster, is already being used by architects, engineers and emergency services internationally.

If you were evacuated from a private or public building as a result of flooding or a serious fire and would like to find out more, go to http://fseg.gre.ac.uk/fire/besecu.html; email L.hulse@gre.ac.uk; or call Dr Lynn Hulse on 0208 331 8706.

Fire Safety Engineering Group, University of Greenwich

Help stop the suffering

Over the last 14 months, Animal Aid has secretly filmed inside seven British slaughterhouses. Far from meeting a quick, humane death, our film shows animals suffering torment as they are kicked, punched, goaded and dragged into the stun room.

Once inside, pigs and sheep run in terrified circles, desperate to escape. Many are inadequately stunned and may be still conscious.

In most of the slaughterhouses, the vets – who are charged with ensuring that animal welfare laws are adhered to – are nowhere to be seen.

Animal Aid is calling for CCTV to be installed in all UK slaughterhouses. If workers know that they are being filmed, they are more likely to work humanely and legally. And for those who don't comply with the law, the film will provide evidence for their prosecution. To support our campaign, contact Animal Aid at www.stopthebrutality.com or call 01732 364546.

Kate Fowler, Animal Aid, Tonbridge

Wonga Walk invitation

I am writing to ask your readers to support people with epilepsy by getting involved in Epilepsy Action's Wonga Walks.

Wonga Walks are taking place across the country to mark Epilepsy Action's 60th anniversary this year. Epilepsy Action is hosting its very own Wonga Conga on Sunday, June 13 (the beginning of National Epilepsy Week, June 13-19) – at Derwentwater in the Lake District. The week aims to raise awareness of epilepsy and raise funds to help support the 456,000 people living with epilepsy in the UK.

We hope the walks will clock up a total distance of 9,240 miles – equivalent to walking to Timbuktu and back. To achieve this target we need 60 groups of 25 people, each walking a distance of six miles (but any distance you can do will take us closer to our goal). That's just one mile for every decade of Epilepsy Action's work. We're encouraging everyone to get involved and organise or take part in a Wonga Walk. All funds raised from the walks will help people affected by epilepsy, a condition that is often overlooked and misunderstood. To find out how to take part in a Wonga Walk or for information about organising your own event, visit www.epilepsy.org.uk/wongawalks. You can also call the fund-raising team on 0113 210 8800.

Michael White, Epilepsy Action

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Sitting pretty after 15 years in the hot seat

NORTH West Kent College principal Malcolm Bell has retired after 15 years in charge.

Mr Bell said farewell at a leaving ceremony last week, when he was presented with gifts including stylish deckchairs made by woodwork students.

Former Dartford MP Howard Stoate – who also retired last week – led the tributes, saying he has always been impressed by Mr Bell's commitment to the college.

He added: "It has been transformed during his time as principal and much of the credit for that must go to him."

PARTING GIFT: Malcolm Bell with chairs

Support is there for all workers

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DISABLED people and those with mental health issues have been assured they are still entitled to the same employment opportunities as everyone else.

The free Kent Supported Employment (KSE) programme – which forms part of Kent County Council's adult social services division – provides help and advice in creating CVs, filling in application forms and preparing clients for job interviews.

Every person who signs up to the scheme has the support of an employment adviser, who stays in touch even after employment has been found.

Kent Supported Employment also helps people who are already in work, but who may be experiencing problems due to their disability. Cabinet member for adult social services Cllr Graham Gibbens said: "Having a disability or mental health problem should not stop people getting work.

"Offering people the right support and getting alongside them as they develop their skills is an important part of how we can help people keep their independence and control of their lives.

"Building relationships with employers is also incredibly important. Any business can find it useful to learn more about employing disabled people and for many of those who already do have disabled people in their workforce, there is a lot of help available."

Cllr Gibbens pointed to the example of a Whitstable woman who – despite suffering from auditory memory problems – was able to set up her own beauty salon in the town.

Knowledge

Despite working hard to gain qualifications after leaving school, the entrepreneur still lacked the knowledge to start a business and was put in touch with KSE.

Adviser Hasan Hijazi helped her write a business plan and with support from Business Link and the Prince's Trust, she was able to turn her dream into reality.

Mr Hasan said: "KSE can support the individual to move forward from where they are as a person to recognise their true potential."

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/kse for further information.

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KOS Media readers can call 0800 064 6500 for a free consultation.

UKC's Jarman shortlisted

THE University of Kent at Canterbury's new School of Arts building has been shortlisted for a prestigious prize.

Costing £6.25 million to build, the Jarman Building is up for a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) award for its impressive range of film studios, editing suites, galleries and classrooms.

Other Kent buildings nominated include the Joiners Shop at the Historic Dockyard Chatham, and the visitor admissions building at Dover Castle. The winner will be announced on October 9.

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Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.
Interview dates: 13 & 14 May 2010 in Maidstone.

Administrator - Generic Structured Psychosocial Interventions (SPI) Service

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The ability to collate and input data accurately onto a database whilst managing spreadsheets on Microsoft Excel is essential. You will also be able to demonstrate an accomplished style of communicating effectively with a wide cross-section of other off-site professionals in a factual and concise manner. You need to be able to prioritise you own workload and respond appropriately to referrals within the service's targeted deadlines. **Ref: 650.**

For further information about the post, please contact the SPI Functional Specialist Lead - Toni Howes on 01227 454740 or the Administration Functional Specialist Lead - Christine Gordon on 01795 590795 ex 2.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.
Interview date: TBC.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.

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Human Resources Manager, CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH Tel: 01233 503333 or email gmorgan@cclind.com

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We require an experienced psychological therapist to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. The number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the needs of the contracted service.

You should be qualified to a minimum of diploma level in CBT, Psychodynamic Counselling or Couples Therapy. You should be eligible for either BABCP/BACP accreditation or UKCP registration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Susan Wyles on 01233 639383 or 07725 433267.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 652.

Closing date: 7 May 2010. Interview date: 19 May 2010 in Ashford.

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Residence Applications
Adoption
Domestic Violence
Divorce
Financial Provision

An understanding of Legal Aid and experience of managing a large caseload will be an advantage. We are particularly interested in those who have recently or may soon become eligible for membership of the Law Society Children Panel.

All positions are based in Margate, and are excellent opportunities for the right candidate to join a Lexcel accredited law firm. More details including job specifications can be found on our website. Applicants should send a comprehensive CV along with a hand-written covering letter to:
Kerry Curson, HR Officer, Boys & Maughan, India House, Margate, CT9 1PZ.

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www.boysandmaughan.co.uk

Psychological Wellbeing Project Co-ordinator

£22,958 - £29,236 • 37 hours per week plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,170 per annum
Based Medway

KCA (UK) Psychological Therapy Providers and mcch society ltd are looking to recruit a Co-ordinator for an exciting new Psychological Wellbeing Project. 'Way to Wellbeing' will be an educational programme to reach out across Kent and Medway enabling both the general population and those who provide services to be better equipped to deal with emotional distress.

Activities will include a programme of large scale psycho-educational workshops and delivery of Mental Health First Aid Training. You will demonstrate a knowledge, understanding and experience of working with those experiencing emotional distress or mental health difficulties as well as providing groupwork, education or training. A sound knowledge of other local services including employment and IAPT services would also be desirable.

Whilst being employed by KCA (UK) you will be required to work closely with our partners for this project and would receive an induction into both organisations.

For an informal discussion regarding this role please contact Kerry Smith, Operations Manager on 07779 658886.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 658.

Closing date: 7 May 2010.
Interview date: 19 May 2010 at Medway PTP.

mcch

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

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To join our friendly team of professionals. Must be occupationally competent and able to assess up to level 4 in:

Health and Social Care	Adult Care
Children and Young people	Care Management
	Management and Leadership

Please contact us on: **01304-614765**
www.elitesocialcareprofessionals.co.uk

PART-TIME CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Medway & Swale Advocacy Partnerships (MSAP) provides advocacy services to people suffering mental health issues and is located in Frindsbury. We are looking for an experienced charity fundraiser to apply for funding for various projects that fall outside of our core funding. The successful applicant will be a self-starter with a proven track record of applying for grants. This will be a one day a week position with the possibility of further day(s) according to success rate.
Own transport would be desirable due location; however, not essential for the post.
Criminal Records bureau checks apply.
For a job information pack, telephone 01634 713739 or e-mail medwayswale@btconnect.com
Closing date for applications: 10th May 2010.
Interviews: 25th May 2010.

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Michael Caines Restaurants — aBode CANTERBURY

The ABode philosophy is to create stunning hotels where quality and tradition are combined to make your stay exceptional. With fine food inspired by Michael Caines, a two starred Michelin chef, to luxurious rooms where every care has been taken over the details, we want you to make yourself at home.

We are are currently seeking committed and enthusiastic individuals to fill the following vacancies:

Operations Manager

As Operations Manager you will need enthusiasm and a hands-on approach in order to nurture our positive customer service culture. As Manager, you will be involved in all aspects of the business, including staff development, customer service, recruiting and financial controls.

This role requires someone with presence, someone who wants to be the face of the Operation for guests and staff. You will like motivating people and enjoying the buzz of very busy hotel. Ideally we are looking for someone who is currently in a similar role and has a good understanding of quality Food and Beverage establishment.

Fine Dining Assistant Restaurant Manager

As restaurant manager you will have the ability to deliver an exceptionally high level of customer service and who can motivate and develop a team. You will be involved in all aspects of the business including staff development, customer service, recruiting and financial controls. An exceptional knowledge of food and wine is required.

If you are interested in either of these vacancies, please send your CV with cover letter to: HR Manager, Abode Canterbury, High Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2RX

E: hrmanagercanterbury@abodehotels.co.uk
W: www.abodehotels.co.uk
www.michaelcaines.com

Jobs for Kent continues on page 87...

Part Time Team Members

Everyone knows **KFC** is the best place for fresh, great tasting chicken because of our secret recipe. But did you know that we also offer tasty careers in our restaurants.

We are currently recruiting for our new store at 4-5 Valence House, Sutton Road, Maidstone.

Whether you're looking for real development opportunities, a second job, or work that fits your lifestyle, we've got it. That's because at KFC, everyone matters to our success. Which is why we want your time with us to be rewarding and fun.

If you are ready, visit **www.kfc.co.uk** and follow the link for careers near you.

Restaurant & Banqueting complex on the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells has the following vacancies

Experienced Bar Staff
£7.00 per hour

Part Time Waiting Staff
£6.50 per hour

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Must be over 25 with clean licence

All of the above vacancies are mainly evening & weekend work

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Experience preferred but not essential.
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Dynamic person willing to work part time or up to 30 hrs/wk

Please send CV to info@ageandsons.co.uk

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serco

PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR

Serco Local Government, Canterbury

A vacancy has arisen for an experienced Playground Inspector to carry out programmed works as part of the maintenance/inspection regime.

- ROSPA qualification would be advantageous
- Full driving licence is essential
- CRB check is required
- 39 Hours per week (over 7 day period)
- 20 Days annual leave rising to 25 days after 5 years continuous service.

Telephone 01227 819419 for an application form.

Closing date for all completed applications will be: Tuesday 4th May 2010

Presland Care Ltd.
'Care Without Compromise'

Due to rapid growth we require
Support Workers

in Maidstone and the surrounding areas to work early mornings, evenings and weekends.Car drivers with own transport essential.Presland Care provides quality support to enable people to remain independent and live in their own homes.

For an application pack contact Jane or Rita on 01634 673333.

We are actively encouraging equal opportunities. Successful applications will be dependent on a clear Enhanced CRB check and two satisfactory references. Closing date for applications Friday 7th May 2010.

AutoPlanet
Automotive Retail Group

Sales Executives
OTE £50k+ (Basic up to £18K (Supplemented) + Commission and Company Car)

Self motivated and confident with a strong desire to succeed?
Enjoy working as part of a team in a fast paced environment?
Want to be the best and be rewarded for it?
Have a genuine interest in cars and customer service?
Experience is preferred but not essential as full training will be given.

Interested?
Please forward your C.V. and covering letter to
Nicky Simmons, Head of H.R. Waters AutoPlanet, Birchol Road, Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9XY or email:
nsimmons@argltd.co.uk Full UK driving licence essential.

All applications are treated in the strictest of confidence. We are an equal opportunities employer.

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Tel: 01795 534888. Fax: 01795 536888.

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Competitive hourly rates
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...Jobs for Kent continued from page 34

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Specialists in pipeline construction and heavy civils.

The following vacancies have arisen:

Large diameter water main Pipe Layers, Pipe Fitters & Ground Workers

Experience, ticketed individuals required to work on water main contracts
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Interested Candidates should contact Robert Bartlett
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fiona@bartlettcontractors.co.uk

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require

General Domestic Assistant

Duties include washing, ironing and cleaning.
Mon - Fri 9am to noon

Chamber Person

To make beds and clean bathrooms. Experience essential
8am – noon 4 mornings per week

Tel: 01227 451243

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Part Time, Seasonal Contract.
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Telephone: 01304 374007

Catering Assistant

Cathedral Deli, Burgate, Canterbury CT1 2HG

- 11.00am-3.00pm Monday to Friday
- Permanent position
- £6.00 per hour

Skills required:
A love of food and ability to work in a small kitchen under pressure.
If interested please call 01227 781290 to request a job description and application form.

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The Foreland School

The Foreland is a day special school for 140 pupils with profound, severe or complex learning difficulties including some with autistic spectrum disorder.

Teacher Vacancy KS3/4
Main Scale + 1 SEN Point
Required for September 2010

We have a vacancy for a full-time class teacher to work with pupils aged 11-16years.
Class sizes range between 8 and 11 pupils, supported by at least 3 Teaching Assistants.

Experience of working with pupils with severe learning difficulties and/or ASD is desirable but not essential and applications will be welcomed from teachers wishing to transfer to this type of work. Induction training will be provided in school and there are opportunities to pursue specialist training courses. The ability to work with other disciplines and to manage a small team of your own teaching assistants is however required.

As a result of the review of special schools in Kent it is intended that the school roll will eventually rise to 165 and as a result "significant expansion" will be needed. Exciting plans for a complete rebuild of the school in conjunction with a rebuild of Hartsdown Technology College in Margate are underway via the Building Schools for the Future initiative. As our school changes flexibility in the school's organisation will need to be maintained. Candidates should therefore be aware that this post is an appointment to the school as a whole, not necessarily fixed in the current Key Stage.

If possible, interested persons should make an informal visit to the school in order to meet the Head of Department and find out more about the nature of the work involved.

The school also currently has 2 vacancies in the administration support team. Whilst the roles are distinctly separate there is a possibility that the 2 positions could be combined for a suitably qualified and experienced candidate.

Data/Personnel Assistant
15 hours per week

Inclusion Support and INSET Administrator
10 hours per week
Salary scale Kent Scheme 5

Reporting to the School Business Manager you will be smart, cheerful and well spoken so that you project a suitably professional image of the school to the many people with whom you are in contact. Methodical and well organised you will set a good example to your colleagues, and you will be committed to team development and team working. The ability to maintain a positive working atmosphere within this small but busy team is essential, as is the need to share knowledge and skills with colleagues in order to increase the effectiveness of the team.

You will be proficient in the use of ICT and willing to explore a range of software with a view to making the school offices even more efficient and effective. Previous financial experience, including the ability to monitor and report on budget income and expenditure, is an essential quality for both positions, together with experience of delivering high quality, professional administrative support. Candidates will also need to be totally committed to working in a confidential and discrete manner due to the sensitive nature of many of the duties of the roles.

It is a specific requirement that candidates for the position of Personnel / Data Assistant will need to demonstrate previous experience or qualification in Personnel and payroll, including relevant personnel and recruitment legislation.

The Foreland School is committed to the safeguarding and well-being of children therefore all successful candidates will need to pass an Enhanced CRB check.

To arrange a visit to the school please telephone 01843 863891 and ask to speak to the School Business Manager or PA to the Head Teacher.

Requests for application packs should be made by email, quoting the position of interest to: foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications for all positions is Monday 17 May 2010
Interviews are expected to take place during week commencing 24 May 2010.

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Admin Assistant/Receptionist

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Tel 01634 844127
Email: office@delceinf.medway.sch.uk

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for 2...

DEPARTMENT CO-ORDINATORS COMMENCING SEPT 2010 TO LEAD NURSERY/KS1 AND KS4/5 (FURTHER EDUCATION), IN THIS PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL FOR PUPILS WITH SEVERE AND PROFOUND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

MPS + TLR 2 (£6,057) + 2 SEN POINTS

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. Applications are invited from experienced special school teachers or those with an interest in developing management skills within a specialist context. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 14th May 2010
Interviews will be held on 24th May 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Spires Academy

Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com
NOR: 412 | Principal: Ian Johnson
Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

Learning Support Assistant (AEN)

£14,311 - £16,225 pro rata • 22.5 hours per week
Mon – Fri, 8.50 – 1.20 • Term times + inset

We are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant, to join our successful Support & Guidance Team to work with students who have a wide range of additional educational needs.

You will be energetic and a champion of children, with an interest in science and experience of working with students with additional educational needs.

The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

For further details and an application pack, please contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392.

Closing date: Monday 3rd May 2010

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Spires Academy

Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com
NOR: 412 | Principal: Ian Johnson
Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

Administration Assistant

Academy Pay Scheme Level 4: £16,225 - £17,046 • 20 hours per week • Term time + inset

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results and value-added in each of it's first two years. Student numbers in year 7 have doubled and we are rapidly moving towards our target roll of 600. Planning for the new building is underway and there is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

Following internal promotion we require an Administration Assistant to join our Support & Guidance Team. The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

For further details and an application pack, please contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392.

Closing date: Monday 3rd May 2010

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

The John Wallis Church of England Academy (proposed)

Director of Finance and Operations

Salary range: £55,000 - £65,000

Applications are invited for the above post at The John Wallis Church of England Academy, which will open in September 2010 replacing Christ Church School, Ashford. The Academy will cater for 1050 students aged 11-16 with a post 16 provision for a further 250 students.

This is an exciting opportunity to join a newly appointed Principal Designate as part of the Senior Leadership Team to lead this new academy which will move into new buildings in September 2013. Candidates must possess an appropriate relevant qualification, have executive management skills, proven financial management skills and strategic vision and experience of working at a senior management level. This post offers tremendous scope for initiative, flair and creativity.

Closing date for receipt of application is 12 noon Wednesday 28th April

Interviews will be held Tuesday 11th May 2010.

Further details and application pack from jireland@diocant.org or telephone 01227 459401. If you would like an informal discussion with John McParland, Principal Designate, regarding this post please call 07852 236444.

www.proposedacademyforashford.org

Canterbury Christ Church University

BENENDEN

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Agency

MidKent College

MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009.

Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus.

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering

Salary: c£46k

Manufacturing and Engineering have benefited from a substantial investment in new equipment and we are now looking to expand training opportunities within this area. In addition to providing effective management of the faculty, the successful candidate will be expected to lead on the development of STEM initiatives including a new Motor Engineering section.

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies

Salary: c£46k

Comprising the A Level, Access and Higher Education curriculum areas, this Faculty is based at both our new Medway Campus and at the nearby University of Kent which accommodates most of the Access and HE provision. The successful candidate will have a strong track record of leading within these curriculum areas and in improving outcomes for students.

Closing date: Thursday 29 April 2010

Interview date: Friday 6 May 2010

Benefits Include:
• Benenden Healthcare • Pension • Generous Annual Leave • Flexible working

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investor in People

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e-mail: **office@termtimeteachers.co.uk**

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a...

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence September 2010

MPS + 2 SEN Points + TLR 2C £2478 (with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 14th May 2010

Interviews will be held on 20th May 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Kent Play Clubs

"Hands up for quality kids clubs"

2-3 Raywood Office Complex
Leacon Lane, Charing, Ashford, Kent.
TN27 0ET.
T: 01233 713813 F: 01233 713847
E: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
W: www.kentplayclubs.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1104141
Registered Company No: 4649786

Dance & Sports activities for Children (5-11 yrs) at After School Club sessions.

Do you have experience/qualifications of working with groups of children (5-11yrs) encouraging them to get involved in dance and/or sports activities? Are you available between 3-6pm on weekday evenings & during school holidays?
Salary £10 per hour, hours negotiable.
This project is supported by BBC Children in Need.
All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Contact **Kent Play Clubs** for an application pack
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
Closing date for applications **7th May 2010.**

Are you looking for experience working in a child-care setting?

Are you currently unemployed or seeking employment?
Kent Play Clubs has funding to provide volunteer work placements and support in improving job-seeking skills.
Places are currently available for a 10 week course including 6 weeks gaining experience at an After School Club.
Gaining experience will improve your chance of securing employment.
If you are interested, please contact **Kent Play Clubs** for an application pack.
This project is supported by the European Social Fund

Senior Club Co-Ordinator at St Michael's After School Club

We are looking for an enthusiastic, caring and responsible adult to work 2.45pm-6pm
MON to FRI (term time only), with relevant experience and NVQ level 3 qualification in childcare.
Immediate start
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk

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Admin Assistant/Receptionist
Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Delce Infant School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 844127
Email office@
delceinf.medway.sch.uk

Catering, Hospitality

WAIT STAFF
Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@ageandsons.co.uk

Part time Cook
Thanet
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 831491
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Operations Manager
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Abode Canterbury
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email hrmanagercanterbury
@abodehotels.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Tuesday 4th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Serco Local Government
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 819419
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

Telephone Interviewers
Orpington
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Business Advantage Group plc
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email stevie.marrett@
business-advantage.com

Debt Negotiator
Bromley
Salary: £15,500 - £17,500 OTE
To apply/more information:
Aktiv Kapital
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jobs@aktiv-kapital.co.uk

CARER RECRUITMENT – OPEN AFTERNOONS
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SIL388/KOS
Tel: 01303 757399
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic

Cleaners
Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Merry Maid
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 359500
Email merrymaidsales
@btconnect.com

Domestic Help
Thanet
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 831491
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

CLEANERS
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Minster Cleaning Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 882492
Email appl

Education, Teacher, School

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering
Medway
Salary: c£46k
Closing Date: Thursday 29 April 2010
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications
@midkent.ac.uk

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies
Medway
Salary: c£46k
Closing Date: Thursday 29 April 2010
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications
@midkent.ac.uk

Administration Assistant
Canterbury
Salary: £16,225 - £17,046 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 3rd May 2010
To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392
Email m.wigington
@spiresacademy.com

NVQ ASSESSORS
Sandwich
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Elite Social
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304-614765
Email applications@
jobsforkent.co.uk

New Careers in Health and Wellness
Maidstone
Salary: £1000.00+ per mnth
To apply/more information:
Arriba
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664861
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Engineers
N/A
Salary: $100k - 200k
To apply/more information:
Tony Ayo
Pentro Drilling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 002348039736271
Email careers
@pentrodrilling.com

HR, Recruitment

SENIOR RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
Folkestone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Recruitment Solutions (Folkestone) Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 220099
Email joe@rsfl.co.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Fine Dining Restaurant Manager
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email hrmanagercanterbury
@abodehotels.co.uk

Bartender
Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@ageandsons.co.uk

Marketing, Advertising

PROPERTY MARKETING
Ashford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Mulberry Cottages
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email sarah.wood
@mulberrycottages.com

European Healthcare Marketing Coordinator
Ashford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
CCL Label (Ashford) Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 503333
Email gmorgan@cclind.com

Motor Trade, Driver

Sales Executives
Maidstone
Salary: OTE £50k+
Sales Executives OTE £50k+
apply/more information:
Autoplanet Automotive Retail Group
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email nsimmons@argltd.co.uk

Vehicle Technicians
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762 777
Email mollie.cooper
@invictamotors.com

Sales Executives
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762 777
Email mollie.cooper
@invictamotors.com

Not for profit, Charities

PART TIME CHARITY FUNDRAISER
Medway
To apply/more information:
Tel: 01634 713739
Email medwayswale
@btconnect.com

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Area Manager
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 680 05 06
Email scottcare@gmail.com

Care Workers
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 680 05 06
Email scottcare@gmail.com

Team Leaders
Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 680 05 06
Email scottcare@gmail.com

Community DrugWorker
Kent
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849 pa
Closing Date: Friday 30 April 2010
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 656
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

COMMUNITY CARERS
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Meridian Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 712300
Email MeridianCbury@aol.com

Support Workers
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 7th May 2010.
To apply/more information:
Presland Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 673333
Email info@preslandcare.co.uk

RGN (NIGHTS)
Chislehurst
Salary: £14.63 PER HOUR
Closing Date: 30 April 2010
To apply/more information:
RMBI
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 467 0081
Email princegeorge
@rmbi.org.uk

Assistant Manager
Folkestone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Career in Care
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Enterprising Opportunities
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 265899
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: £8.25 to £10.00 per hour
To apply/more information:
TerraBlu Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 529429
Email emma.foard
@terrablu.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

Psychological Therapist
Ashford
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849 pro rata
Closing Date: 7 May 2010
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 652
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales People
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Black Tie Foods Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 760484
Email blacktie@btconnect.com

Manager
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Pantiles Bride
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email maria@pantilesbride.com

Bridal Sales Consultant
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Email maria@pantilesbride.com

Self Employed Book Seller
Kent
Salary: OTE £45K PA
To apply/more information:
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 606 4276
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Bookshop Manager
Sandwich
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Sandwich Bookshop
Quoting Job Ref: kos Email
applications@
jobsforkent.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Finchcocks, Goudhurst**
Applicant: **Katrina Burnett**
Name of Premises: **Penshurst Place, Penshurst, Tonbridge**
Applicant: **Viscount De L'Isle**
Name of Premises: **Royal Wells Hotel, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells**
Applicant: **Peter Ratcliffe**
Name of Premises: **Salomons, Broomhill Road, Southborough**
Applicant: **Andrew Daniells**
Name of Premises: **Chiddingstone Castle, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone**
Applicant: **Simon Smallwood**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

We Mission House Investments Ltd of The Mission House, 10, High Street, Cowden, Kent TN8 7JB hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;
1. Sale of alcohol by retail
In respect of the premises situated at 33, Quarry Hill Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2RS and to be known by the sign of Kenny G's Off Licence
The application can be viewed at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ during normal office hours.
Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 20th May 2010.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.
Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere,
Leybourne,
West Malling
Kent.
ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Rowhill Grange, Wilmington**
Applicant: **Anne Grimwood**
Name of Premises: **Brandshatch Place Hotel, Brandshatch Road, Fawkham**
Applicant: **Andrew Oxby**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applicationsThe Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/01148/HOUSE **Mill Street Cottage Mill Street, Benenden**
- Retrospective - Lean to porch (LB) (CA)

10/00983/LBC **The Corner House Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Construction of stairs from ground floor shop to cellar (LB)

10/01104/HOUSE **1 Oak Cottages Whitewell Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Reconstruction of boundary wall to match existing wall which was damaged as a result of vehicle impact (CA) (LB)

10/01036/FUL **3 Royal Chase Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Change of use from residential accommodation for nursing staff to single dwelling (work commenced) (CA)

10/01167/LBC **38 Mount Ephraim Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of shop front fascia and front elevation advertising wall board (LB)

10/01189/LBC **Jordan Cottage 47 Church Road, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: refurbishment including external and internal works (LB)

10/01172/HOUSE **Catherine Wheel Farmhouse Sand Lane, Frittenden**
- Conversion of existing playroom and store to kitchen/dining room; installation of new windows to dining area and new flue terminal; installation of new rooflights (LB)

10/01177/LBC **Catherine Wheel Farmhouse Sand Lane, Frittenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of existing playroom and store to kitchen/dining room; installation of new windows to dining area and new flue terminal; removal of easting internal wall and ceiling; installation of new insulated plasterboard ceiling to roof pitch; installation of new rooflights (LB)

10/01125/FUL **The Old Bank The Plain, Goudhurst**
- Single storey side extension (CA)

10/01098/LBC **Woodsden Barn Water Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to doors and windows; Replacement of single-glazing with Slimlite double glazing units; Redecoration of external joinery to darker tone (LB)

10/01155/FUL **Abacus House Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Change of use from fishing tackle shop to body art studio (CA)

10/01097/OUTMJ **Little Rhoden Farm Lucks Lane, Paddock Wood**
- Outline: Part demolition of existing buildings and the construction of replacement buildings with extension of existing retained building for B8 storage and distribution use and for marquee hire companies. Removal of portacabins (MAJOR)

10/01046/HOUSE **68 Warwick Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Childrens play area on an existing terraced area at the rear of the garden, incorporating a small tree house (CA)

10/01170/FUL **7 Nevill Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Part Retrospective: Change of use of building to hotel use (Class C1) ancillary to The Brew House Hotel, creation of rooflight on side roof slope, insertion of louvres in front and rear roof slopes, and erection of canopy over rear door (CA) (LB)

10/00852/HOUSE **Kent House Camden Park, Park**
- Erection of replacement annexe ancillary to Kent House (CA)

10/01090/FUL **20 Camden Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Change of use from A1 to A3 restaurant and cafe (CA)

10/01166/HOUSE **12 Common View Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall**
- Retrospective - Addition of chimney/flue to south east roof elevation (CA)

10/01208/HOUSE **Boxhurst Oast Boxhurst, Sandhurst**
- Changes to approved plans for the construction of a pool house (LB)

10/01214/LBC **Salomons Centre David Salomons Estate, Southborough And High Brooms**
- Listed Building Consent: masonry repairs to damaged stone lintel over first floor rear external opening, and balcony ballustrading (LB)

10/01064/FUL **The Orchard London Road, Southborough North**
- New single-storey dwelling (CA)

10/01085/HOUSE **Black Lion House Fordcombe Road, Speldhurst**
- Alterations to existing outbuilding to facilitate its reuse as an annex (LB)

10/01087/LBC **Black Lion House Fordcombe Road, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to existing outbuilding to facilitate its reuse as an annex (LB)

10/01173/HOUSE **Burnt House Burnt House Lane, Speldhurst**
- Conversion of a garage/store to habitable accomodation with a two storey extension (LB)

10/01186/HOUSE **59 The Boundary Langton Green, Speldhurst**
- Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of existing integral garage to utility room (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 24 April 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway widening and improvements at M20 Junction 9 and Drovers Roundabout, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order on Various Roads, Ashford, on or after 10 May 2010, for an estimated period of 11 months or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on both carriageways of Fougeres Way from the 40 mph / National Speed Limit signs onto and including M20 Junction 9 Roundabout in its entirety, extending onto both carriageways of Trinity Road (properly Sparrows Hall Road) north to the 40 mph / National Speed Limit signs.

This is effective as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

M20-JUNCTION 9 - VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD (40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to impose a 40 miles per hour speed limit and revoke a national speed limit on the lengths of roads described in the Schedules hereto.

A copy of the Order, an explanatory statement and maps showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent Highway Services, Network Management, Invicta House, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XX and at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL.

Anyone wishing to support this proposal, or to object to it, should write to John Jones, KHS Road Safety, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6GB quoting The Kent County Council (M20-Junction 9 - Various Roads, Ashford) (40mph Speed Limit) Order 2010 stating their reasons, by not later than 17 May 2010.

Schedule 1: 40mph speed limit

A251 Trinity Road, Ashford
From its southern junction with Rutherford Road southwards to its junction with M20 Junction 9 Roundabout

M20 Junction 9 Roundabout, Ashford
From its north-eastern junction with A251 Trinity Road to its south-western junction with A20 Fougeres Way for its entire length

A20 Fougeres Way, Ashford
From its north-eastern junction with M20 Junction 9 Roundabout south-westwards to its junction with A20 Drovers Roundabout

Schedule 2: Revocation of national speed limit

A251 Trinity Road, Ashford
From its southern junction with Rutherford Road southwards to its junction with M20 Junction 9 Roundabout

M20 Junction 9 Roundabout, Ashford
From its north-eastern junction with A251 Trinity Road to its south-western junction with A20 Fougeres Way for its entire length

A20 Fougeres Way, Ashford
From its north-eastern junction with M20 Junction 9 Roundabout south-westwards to its junction with A20 Drovers Roundabout

MONKERY LANE, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of urgent carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Monkery Lane, Charing, on or after 10 May 2010 for an estimated period of 2 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed for its entire length. The alternative route for through traffic will be via A252 Canterbury Road and Faversham Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

A226 THAMES WAY AND A2260, DARTFORD (24 HOUR CLEARWAY) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) and 4(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce a clearway Order to the roads or following lengths of road:-

(a) A266 Thames Way from the roundabout junction with Stonebridge Road and Grove Road, south west and south east to the junction with B262 Springhead Road.

(b) A2260 from the junction with A226 Thames Way south west, south and south east to the junction with the on slip road west of Ebbsfleet Junction C roundabout and to the junction with the off slip road east of Ebbsfleet Junction B.

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford, ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 17 May 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

WROTHAM ROAD, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY RESRICTION OF TRAFFIC) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use of traffic at any greater speed than 30mph on Wrotham Road, Gravesend from 140m north of centre of Chalky Bank junction to 20m south of traffic island on north side of former A2 trunk road.

The Order will become effective on 26th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the restriction is to facilitate safety to road users and work force.

EAST CRESCENT ROAD, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use of vehicular traffic on East Crescent Road, Gravesend from its junction with Milton Road up for 20 metres.

The Order will become effective on 10th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Bentley Street and Milton Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Murphy's Limited to install a new electricity supply.

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Gravesend as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 10th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate micro surfacing works.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Blenheim Close, Meopham.**
Extent:	For its entire length.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Road Name:	**Grenville Close, Meopham.**
Extent:	For its entire length.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Road Name:	**Oak Mead, Meopham.**
Extent:	For its entire length.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Road Name:	**Warwick Gardens, Meopham.**
Extent:	For its entire length.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Road Name:	**Meadfield Road, Meopham.**
Extent:	From its junction with Wrotham Road to Cheyne Walk.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Diversion:	Cheyne Walk, Whitehill Road, The Street and Wrotham Road.
Road Name:	**Cheyne Walk, Meopham.**
Extent:	From its junction with Meadfield Road and Whitehill Road.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Diversion:	Whitehill Road, The Street, Wrotham Road and Meadfield Road

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE (SPEED LIMITS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will extend the 30 mph speed limit from the existing termination point in Boughton Lane (approximately in line with the southern flank wall of 64 Boughton Lane) for a distance of 186 metres in a southerly direction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 17 May 2010.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 ZEBRA CROSSING – WALLIS AVENUE, MAIDSTONE

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

(a) 40 metres north west of the centre of the roundabout at the junction with Brishing Lane and Wallis Avenue.

(b) 79 metres south east of the junction with Hollingworth Road.

STOCKETT LANE, TOVIL PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stockett Lane from the Scout Hut to Abbey Gate Farm on or after Thursday 13th May 2010 for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Bockingford Lane, Hayle Mill Road and Cave Hill.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to film a road safety film. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alexa Kersting-Woods on 01622 69835

VARIOUS ROADS AT LADDINGFORD AND YALDING IN THE PARISH OF YALDING (RESTRICTED ROADS AND 40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make the above named Order under section 82, 83, and 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 30 mph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

Leeds Road	**Gravelly Ways**
Claygate Road	**Darman Lan**
Clevesland	**St Mary's Close**

The effect of this Order will also introduce a 40 mph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

Gravelly Ways	**Simmonds Lane**
Lees Road	

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU and at Invicta House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support or object to the proposed order, you should send the grounds in writing to The Transportation & Development Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.maidstone.tonbridgeandmalling @kent.gov.uk by noon on 17 May 2010.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

ACCESS ROAD SEVENOAKS RAILWAY STATION INTO LONDON ROAD, SEVENOAKS PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURN & RIGHT TURN (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Orders under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The first named Order will:-

Prohibit any vehicle from making a left turn from the eastern arm of the access road to Sevenoaks Station into London Road, Sevenoaks except for emergency vehicles; or any vehicle with the permission of a police officer in uniform.

The second named Order will:-

Prohibit any vehicle from making a right turn from the western arm of the access road to Sevenoaks Station into London Road, Sevenoaks except for emergency vehicles; or any vehicle with the permission of a police officer in uniform.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Argyll Road, Sevenoaks and at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close. Aylesford.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transportation & Development Manager (Tunbridge Wells), Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7EZ or by email to khstdsevtwell@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 17 May 2010.

DORSET STREET, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Dorset Street, Sevenoaks between numbers 8 to 101.

The Order will become effective on 10th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: London road and High Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a New Gas Supply.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

LEAVELAND BELLES FORSTAL, THROWLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of electricity cable replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Leaveland Belles Forstal, Throwley, on or after 10 May 2010, for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Leaveland Court. The alternative route for through traffic will be via A251 Ashford Road, Bagshill Road, Throwley Road and Workhouse Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

LAVENDER HILL, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lavender Hill, Tonbridgefrom the junction of Lavender Hill and Pembury Road to the junction with Drayton Road , on or after Monday 26th April 2010for a period of up to 7 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Priory Road, Railway, Approach, Pembrury Road and vice versa.

Southern Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to install a new Southern Water foul/Storm Pipeline

Should you require any further information the South East Water contact is Stephen Smith on 01273 66350

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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Exciting all-new S60 maps Volvo's future

By **STEVE LOADER**

THIS year is pivotal for Volvo.

The Swedish marque is about to launch its most important model for ages, while the sale of the company by Ford to the Chinese Geely Automobile company should go through later in the year.

It is fair to say that rarely has such excitement been generated by a new Volvo; the brand's image as a thoughtful, safety-conscious entity prevails despite recent attempts to re-orientate its appeal.

And the company is probably still more famous for robust estates rather than sportier offerings such as the underrated C30 hatchback/coupé.

However, the all-new S60 – available to order from £23,295 ahead of launch in July – should really start to change perceptions.

This racy four-door coupé/saloon builds on the current car's sleek lines and should put pressure on German rivals like the BMW 3-Series, Audi A4 and Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

Volvo promises that trio will feel the heat on the handling front too; a rework of the chassis on the bigger S80 showed the company now has the savvy to right the woolly failings of the current S60.

It is also a safe bet that much of the new S60's hidden architecture is shared with the Ford Mondeo – no slouch in the handling department.

Concealed rear door handles add to the classy coupé look, increasingly fashionable in the executive sector and currently championed, most obviously, by Jaguar's highly acclaimed XF and the VW Passat CC.

Engines include an all-new five-cylinder 163bhp 2.0-litre D3 engine capable of a combined 54.3mpg to satisfy those who want their four-door coupé to have real world economy too, though the familiar Volvo twin-turbo D5 powerplant also features to give 0-62mph in 7.8 seconds yet average more than 50mpg.

There is also a fast all-wheel drive 304bhp 3.0-litre petrol T6 (from £35,695) – continuing a latter-day Volvo tradition of using 'T' to denote the performance flagship – this will hit 62mph in just 6.5 seconds.

However, Volvo cannot quite shake its roots in safety, so the new car may be specified with Volvo's ground-breaking Pedestrian Detection package, which can stop a collision with a pedestrian at up to 21mph and dramatically reduce speed above that, with potentially life-saving consequences – but the option costs £1,3501.

Standard features though include electronic climate and cruise controls, five-inch colour screen for the 'infotainment' system, steering wheel remote audio controls, alloys and leather steering wheel and gear stick.

There is also an exterior styling kit (£1,150) for those wanting to make the most of the car's good looks.

The signs are good for both new S60 and the brand, which enjoyed its best first quarter in the UK for 18 years, despite the gloomy economy.

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04 54 VW POLO 1-4 TWIST 5DR AUTO PAS BLUE 39000 MILES £5995

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08 08 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS HATCH ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES £8995
08 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 20000 MILES £8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 17000 MILES £7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS 5 DOOR METRO BLUE 17000 MILES £7995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 6000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 40000 MILES £7495
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES £6495
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 MILES £7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR HATCH PAS ULTRA BLUE 7000 MILES £6995

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08 08 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 12000 MILES £8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 MILES £8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE PANNACOTTA 15000 MILES £8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE MET GREY 7000 MILES £8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE METRO BLUE 2000 MILES £7495
06 56 ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANNACOTTA 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR METRO BLUE 11000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 11000 MILES £7995
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07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GOLD 16000 MILES £8995
07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 19000 MILES £8495
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07 07 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C GOLD 9000 MILES £8995
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07 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE 4000 MILES £7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE 10000 MILES £7995
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07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET SILVER AIR/C 16000 MILES £7995
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Engine highlights change to new TT

NO DOUBT with an eye on Peugeot's stunning new RCZ due out shortly, Audi has revamped its TT coupé icon for the 2011 model year.

The work includes a new 2.0-litre TFSI turbocharged engine, which improves fuel economy by up to 14 per cent over its previous equivalent.

A sport button, first seen in the TT RS, is now available as an option across the range – it alters throttle response, steering servo assistance and engine note.

But most of the work is more subtle, with interior and exterior nips and tucks, new colours inside and out, and xenon headlamps with LED daytime running lights now standard for S line versions.

The new 211PS (208bhp) engine can reach 62mph in 6.1 seconds and yet should average more than 40mpg – providing the 0-62mph sprint is not put to the test too often.

Touran family wagon gets looks too

THERE'S a strong family resemblance to the new VW Touran which arrives later this year.

The German marque's seven-seat people carrier has been re-worked to bring it into line with the styling of the latest Polo, Golf and Touareg models.

The cabin has also had a makeover to help it challenge the midi-MPV sector's UK leader, the Vauxhall Zafira.

In keeping with current trends, there are two small capacity turbocharged petrol units offered alongside efficient VW diesels that have tended to be the mainstay choices.

The entry-level petrol engine is a new 1.2-litre TSI unit delivering 105 PS (103bhp) and there is a 1.4-litre TSI offering 140 PS (137bhp).

VW's automatic parking system ParkAssist, allowing the vehicle to park in parallel and end-on spaces, is also offered.

The new Touran goes on sale in the UK in September – prices and specifications to be announced.

Testing times for Saab and its latest model

FOR more on Saab's return from the dead, see our road test report on the Saab Convertible.

But for more on the Swedish marque's future, keep an eye on the all-new 9-5 saloon said to be the most technically advanced car ever produced by the company.

It is priced from £26,495 with a generous standard spec and all turbocharged engine line-up starting with a 180PS (177bhp) 1.6-litre petrol unit.

Saab, being true to early rallying successes, has tested the car rigorously in tough conditions including forest tracks near the Arctic Circle.

Order books are open for the 9-5, but it will be interesting to see whether would-be buyers will have confidence in an all-new car from a brand that nearly closed earlier this year.

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by STEVELOADER

Hyundai puts rivals to shame in reliability poll

HYUNDAI'S i30 has scooped the prize as the UK's most reliable car, according to the prestigious Driver Power Top 100.

It also knocked the impressive Jaguar XF into second place – the executive saloon won in 2009 and costs around twice the price of the Korean Ford Focus equivalent.

Another perennial favourite, the Skoda Octavia, was also knocked back to third, while the Hyundai's most obvious rival, the Focus fetched up at 51 in the poll across more than 23,000 drivers.

In the manufacturer rankings, the Octavia helped Skoda to number one, while embattled Toyota will take comfort from the number two slot earned by its Lexus luxury brand.

Breakthrough

The i30 helped Hyundai make the biggest overall leap, jumping 12 places to finish sixth and rather suggests that the brand's cars do not need the reassurance of its standard five-year warranty.

Worst marque for reliability was Peugeot, thanks to poor performances by its now defunct 307 family hatch and current 207 supermini.

Driver Power is run in conjunction with Auto Express, where editor-in-chief David Johns said: "Congratulations to Hyundai. This is a huge breakthrough for the brand.

"Over the years, owners have told us what good value its cars are. This is the final proof that Hyundais can now match that with real all-round reliability and satisfaction."

THE FULL DRIVER POWER TOP 10

1) HYUNDAI I30
2) JAGUAR XF
3) SKODA OCTAVIA
4) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MKVI
5) RENAULT MÉGANE MKIII
6) LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 3
7) ROVER 75
8) MERCEDES E-CLASS (2002-2009)
9) TOYOTA PRIUS (2003-2009)
10) JAGUAR S-TYPE

OTHER AWARD WINNERS:

Best Running costs – Fiat Panda

Reliability – Toyota Prius.
Auto Express reports: "It's had a tough time of late but the Driver Power results speak volumes – Toyota Prius owners have had no problems to report. That's remarkable in a car that packs so much hi-tech equipment."

Ease of driving – Toyota Prius

Practicality – Land Rover Discovery 3

Build quality – Lexus IS (old model)

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05 55 Peugeot 206 1.4 Verve 3door hatchback, finished in black with contrasting interior, Alloy wheels, sports seats, air conditioning, CD/radio, front fog lights, air bags and ABS, a genuine low mileage car and in lovely condition, be quick **£5495**

02 52 Peugeot 206 CC Finished in Aegean metallic blue with contrasting black leather interior. Alloy wheels. air conditioning, ABS, EW, electric folding roof and very rare SP kit fitted. Beautiful condition throughout..... **£5495**

06 06 Citroen C3 1.4 Plurial, Finished metallic blue with silver detailing, very versatile roof, choose a targa top or a full convertible in minutes!! air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, alloys wheels, good value **£5995**

08 58 Peugeot 107 Urban 1.0 3 door, Finished in red with contrasting interior, electric windows and remote central locking 4 airbags, folding rear seat, fantastic fuel economy and only £35 per year road tax, value at only **£5995**

06 06 Nissan Note 1.6SE Auto CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, on board computer, 15" Alloys, Air Conditioning, Front & Rear Electric Windows, Sliding Rear Seats with Flexi-board storage system..... **£6495**

06 06 Honda Jazz 1.3SE 5 door, finished A one owner car, equipment includes Alloys, Air Conditioning, CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, Electrically adjustable & heated wing mirrors, Electric windows front & rear, Remote central locking..... **£6995**

05 05 Vauxhall Tigra Sport Twinport 1.4, Lovely looking, fun car, perfect all year round, 36,000 miles..... **£7495**

04 04 Peugeot 307 2.0, Metallic blue with black leather upholstery. Electric folding roof, AC, alloy's , tinted glass, remote central locking, front fog lights power fold mirrors, auto headlamp's and wipers. Peugeot service history, low mileage for year..... **£7595**

08 08 Ford Fiesta Freedom 1.4, Stunning example of this popular hatchback, one former keeper, FSH, Heated windscreen, Front Fogs, Aux Input, 20,900 miles **£7750**

08 08 Ford Fiesta 1.4 AUTO Style 3dr, hatchback finished in metallic red with grey interior. rare automatic, air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, a one owner car with low mileage, only **£7995**

07 07 Citroen Picasso HDI MPV, finished in silver with contrasting dark grey interior, great spec including air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, a nice example of this popular family car and value at **£7995**

09 09 Corsa 1.4 Club 5dr Well equipped with Air conditioning, Electric front windows, electric wing mirrors, CD/radio with steering wheel controls, MP3 connectivity and 6 airbags **£8495**

08 08 Citroen Berlingo M-SP VTR 1.6 16v, Spacious people carrier for work and family. One owner from new, with full service history, 7353 miles..... **£8495**

09 58 Corsa 1.4 SXi 5dr A good looking car in silver with dark grey interior, alloy wheels, front foglights, Air conditioning, electric front windows, electric wing mirrors, MP3 connectivity, CD/radio with steering wheel controls. **£8995**

07 07 SEAT Leon 1.6 Hatch 5dr Finished in silver with contrasting interior, air conditioning, remote central locking, CD radio with mp3, airbags, abs, low mileage for year and good value **£8995**

06 06 Mazda 5 2.0 Sport, Room for All the family in this well equipped 6 seater with CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Sliding rear doors, Climate control, 17" alloys **£9495**

06 06 Honda Civic 1.8ES I-VTEC A host of features, including CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Dual zone climate control, Electric windows front & rear, electric wing mirrors, cruise control and Reverse park sensors..... **£9495**

09 09 Micra 1.2 '25' 5dr Our ex. Demo. An economical to run car with CD/Radio and ipod connection, steering wheel audio controls, Electric front windows, Electric wing mirrors, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels **£9995**

07 57 Mini One 1.6 3dr, Finished in deep metallic red with a contrasting interior. Air con, electric windows, remote central locking, alloy wheels, ABS, CD player, front fog lights, service history, cheap running costs. One owner from new..... **£10495**

05 05 Volkswagen Golf 2.0GTi Automatic 5dr, A fabulous drive with many features including 17" alloys, climate control, front foglights, electric windows all round, electric/heated wing mirrors, radio/CD with 10 speakers..... **£11995**

06 56 Nissan 2.5dci Navara Aventura Hard top, load liner and towbar, Satellite Navigation, Climate control, CD/Radio, Electric windows front & rear, Electric wing mirrors, electric sunroof, full leather upholstery with heated front seats, Alloy wheels and front foglights.... **£11995 +VAT**

07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 2.0 VTR+ Automatic, Just arrived! A spacious 7 seater with remote central locking, Electric mirrors, Front foglights, Air conditioning, Trip computer, Steering wheel audio controls, 16" alloys, Trip computer, ESP **£11995**

04 04 Nissan 350Z, A dream drive with a powerful 276 bhp 3.5 litre engine, Full main dealer history, 6CD/radio, 18" alloys, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Climate control, ESP **£11995**

09 59 Peugeot 308 1.6 HDI S 5dr hatchback, silver with contrasting interior, A/C and electric windows, remote central locking, CD radio, 6 air bags, ABS and ESP, split rear seats, amazing fuel economy from this great diesel engine, save over £4000 from new..... **£12495**

09 09 Peugeot 308cc 1.6 THP 150cc, Black with contrasting interior, Electric folding roof, A/C, alloy's, computer, EW, ABS, remote central locking, only 7800 miles, over £21500 new..... **£17495**

10 59 Peugeot 407 2.0 HDI Sport Saloon, Silver with black half leather interior, full colour integrated sat nav, bluetooth, climate control, electric seats, electric windows and power folding mirrors, 6 airbags, abs and esp, cost new over £23000 amazing value at **£17495**

08 08 Honda CRV 2.2 DCi, gleaming black with contrasting interior. One owner from new and full service history. Many features including air con, electric windows, ABS, factory alloy wheels, detachable tow bar, front fogs plus lots more! beautiful condition..... **£17495**

07 07 Pathfinder 2.5DCI Aventura A fully equipped 7 seater, full leather upholstery with heated front seats, Sat Nav, 6 CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, Cruise Control, Climate Control, Electric Sunroof & mirrors, Intelligent key, alloys, ESP. **£18995**

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 107 range are: Urban 51.3 (5.5), Extra Urban 72.4-68.8 (3.9-4.1), Combined 62.7-61.4 (4.5-4.6), CO_2 107-106 (g/km) **for the 207 range are:** Urban 49.5-28.5 (5.7-9.9), Extra Urban 76.3-49.5 (3.7-5.7), Combined 64.2-39.2 (4.4-7.2), CO_2 171 - 99 (g/km).
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Clio 1.2 16V 75 are: Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.9 (5.9). The official CO2 emission figure is 139g/km. And for the Mégane Hatch Expression dCi 86hp are: Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 64.2 (4.4). The official CO2 emission figure is 115g/km. Savings are based on MRRP of Clio Dynamique TomTom - £12,900 and Mégane Hatch Expression dCi 86 - £17,415 ordered between 16th and 26th April 2010. Price includes delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. These offers apply to retail customers at participating dealers only. All figures correct at time of going to press. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offers. Car shown may have optional metallic paint at an additional cost of £405.

Dare to be different – in

DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Saab 9-3 Aero

IF YOU wondered about all the fuss when Saab faced closure a few weeks ago then the Saab Convertible is one big reason.

It highlights what the Swedish motor brand has stood for in its comparatively short life: thinking outside the box.

The company started as a tiny offshoot of Saab aerospace in 1949, using aerodynamic styling and innovative engineering inherited from its parent.

It famously promoted lighter and cheaper front-wheel drive and then turbocharging, also notching firsts in car making including: seatbelts as standard, headlamp wipers and washers, heated front seats, impact-absorbing bumpers, pollen filters for car ventilation systems, split-vision door mirrors and asbestos-free brakes.

The marque also followed a distinctive path with dashboards – ergonomic masterpieces inspired by its aviation heritage – and, from 1969, sited the ignition key near the gearshift to avoid the risk of knee damage in a crash.

And so to the convertible, which traces its origins to 1986, when Saab produced a crop-top version of its final in-house design, the legendary 900.

It was a brave move for a company that, even then, was battling entrenched German executive marques and couldn't resist falling under General Motors' control in 1989.

That partnership seemed doomed from the start and Saab closed briefly this year as GM sought to cut group losses, only to sanction spinning off its Swedish arm into partnership with Dutch supercar maker Spyker – sweetened by a 400 million euro loan from the EU.

When the new partnership resumed production at Saab's Trollhattan plant last month, it was symbolic that one of the first vehicles off the line should be a 9-3 Convertible – probably the only credible rival to big-hitters like the Audi A4 and BMW 3-Series convertibles and set to play a major role in reviving the company.

Now into its third generation (priced from £26,800) since that 1980s predecessor, our test car looked striking in bright red and had the smooth and economical 1.9 turbodiesel engine in 180bhp form, allowing the car to average around 45mpg and endowing decent pace too, considering extra strengthening needed

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Škoda. Manufacturer of happy drivers.

Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only. **Official fuel consumption for the Superb range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 44.8 (6.3); Extra urban 36.2 (7.8) – 70.6 (4.0); Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 emissions for the Superb range 129 – 237 g/km.** Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 30th June 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. †Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme. **Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 emissions (g/km) Škoda Range: 109 – 237**

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website: www.kentskoda.co.uk

01634 377 444
email: sherlodgew@btconnect.com

Motability

the Saab tradition

to maintain rigidity without a proper roof.

To be fair though, the idea of a convertible was in the mix when the current car's platform was at the planning stage and it shows in the car's composure, even on current indifferent road surfaces.

It's a rewarding car to drive too, with the front-driven chassis gripping the corners well.

But the executive convertible class is probably less about driving at the limit and more about image and style and the Saab makes a statement on both: on the first it stands apart from normal German 'suspects' and, on the second, because it looks good with hood up or down.

The three-layer powered top does an excellent job in keeping out road noise and can be raised in about half a minute and while the car is moving at up to 20mph.

Top down, the cabin is also reasonably well protected from hurricane forces when side windows are up though, like all four-seat convertibles, those in the back get caught in the swirl around the windscreen once the side glass is down. Space in the back for two people is generous – one of the best at this level – and the Saab line-up comes generously equipped, though this takes you well over £30,000 in the case of our Aero flagship model.

In the Saab tradition the dashboard is painstakingly arranged, if a little dated in style, and boot space with the roof down is good, although it can be hit and miss ensuring that the roof isn't going to halt during retraction due to an obstruction.

DrivingPortfolio

SAAB 9-3 AERO 180 1.9 TTID CONVERTIBLE £33,275

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£155/year (£155 year one)
Best rival	Audi A4 Convertible

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: sometimes having to fiddle about with luggage in the boot to ensure the roof folds

NOT SURE: the Saab quite matches the quality levels of dearer German rivals

REALLY LIKE: the Saab's stylish appeal as a genuine alternative to the 'usual suspects'

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Price of £6645 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev90078)
Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km.

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Alto official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 51.4 (5.5), extra urban from 74.3 (3.8), combined from 64.2 (4.4). CO_2 emissions from 103g/km. SX4 official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 33.2 (8.5), extra urban from 48.7 (5.8), combined from 41.5 (6.8). CO_2 emissions from 165g/km.

†Finance subject to status (over 18's only) A guarantee may be required. Written quotation available on request. All offers correct at time of going to press. Please note models portrayed are for illustration purposes only.

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*Terms and conditions apply. Call us for full details. Models portrayed for illustration purposes only. Details correct at time of going to press. Dealer reserves the right to change or withdrawl any offer. Warranty only available on new cars purchased in the UK and sourced from Hyundai Motor UK Limited through it's authorised dealers. See your local dealer for full warranty terms and conditions. Terms and conditions apply.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i30: Urban 40.9 (6.9), Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 49.6 (5.7), CO 2 Emissions 135g/km.

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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Lacetti £350, Aveo £365, Cruze £400). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £289. Available at participating retailers only. The Programme is available to eligible customers who trade in a qualifying vehicle against the purchase of a new qualifying Chevrolet Aveo, Lacetti, Cruze or Captiva at a participating authorised UK Chevrolet Retailer during the Programme period which is between 6th April 2010 and 5th July 2010 inclusive. Eligibility is subject to compliance with all requirements set out in these terms and conditions. The trade in vehicle must be a passenger car (M1) first registered in the United Kingdom between 1st March 2000 and 31st March 2004. Terms and conditions apply; please speak to your local retailer for further details. The new vehicle must be ordered between 6th April 2010 and 5th July 2010 inclusive, registered by 5th July 2010, and declared new at first registration in the UK with no former keepers. The Programme cannot be used in conjunction with any other Programme or offer. Only one discount is available per new vehicle. Savings against current manufacturers retail price at time of publication and available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev92133)

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 132g/km. Cruze 1.6 S 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO_2 emissions 159g/km. Lacetti 1.4 SE 5dr: Urban - 28.8 (9.8), Extra-urban - 49.5 (5.7), Combined - 39.2 (7.2). CO_2 emissions 165g/km.

How all of it works

BUYING and adapting a car for a disabled driver can be expensive.

The Motability Scheme – run by the non-profit making independent organisation Motability – gives disabled people the opportunity to own or lease a car at an affordable price.

The scheme helps with leasing or buying a car if you receive the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement or the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Even if you don't drive, you can apply for a car as a passenger and propose two other people as your drivers.

You can also apply for a car on behalf of a child aged three or over, who is entitled to the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.

There are several finance options available to you if you are looking to get a vehicle for a disabled driver:

• Contract hire – you can lease a new car from a Motability Accredited dealer for at least three years if you have 12 months or more of your Disability Living Allowance 'award' remaining. If your award is not renewed during the full length of your chosen scheme, your car will need to be returned. At the end of the period, the car is returned to Motability Operations.

• Ninety five per cent of Motability customers choose Contract Hire which offers:

A new car of their choice from more than 4,000 every three years

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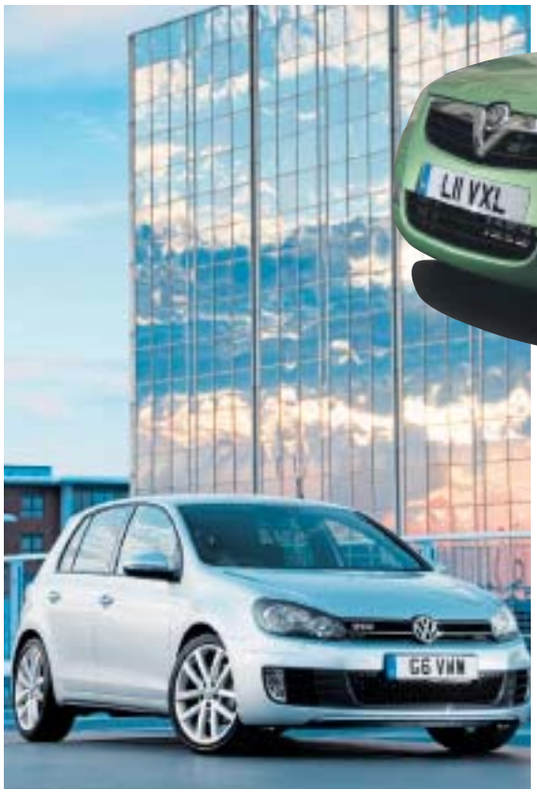

STYLE: Volkwagen's Golf mixes practicality with great style...

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*Available on Moda 1.2 5-door models and S 1.2 60 PS and 70 PS 5-door models with air conditioning, SE 1.2 60 PS and 70 PS, SE 1.4 85 PS and SE TDI 1.6 75 PS 5-door models. †Offer available on Golf S 1.6 TDI and Golf S 1.4 TSI 5-door models. Offers available until June 30th, 2010. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Volkswagen range: urban 60.1 (4.7) – 13.3 (21.2); extra urban 83.1 (3.4) – 26.9 (10.5); combined 74.3 (3.8) – 19.5 (14.5). CO_2 emissions 348 – 99g/km.

A JOY TO DRIVE: Vauxhall's seven-seat Zafira (below) and its popular Astra (left) along with the Mazda 3 have all proved to be popular choices for many Motability users

Adaptability help boosts scheme

APPLICATIONS for cars with adaptations on the Motability Scheme have soared over the last few years.

The rise followed changes to include the most popular adaptations within the Motability car lease at no extra cost; under previous arrangements the most popular adaptation, hand controls, would have cost more than £300.

Many other adaptations are available at more affordable levels. A Motability spokesman said: "Making the Motability Scheme more affordable for those who have the greatest mobility requirements is a major achievement.

"As well as better value adaptations, customers will find that a selection of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) are now available with no advance payment.

"This is a key part of a key drive to make the scheme more accessible for those who need adapted or 'drive from' wheelchair cars."

Increased dedicated training for dealers is also available; seminars for car dealers now include helping them manage requests for adaptations as part of everyday transactions.

The spokesman added: "The Motability Scheme now offers over 84 per cent of all adaptations required by our customers and these are available to order at the same time as choosing a new car.

"One easy process allows customers to receive their new car ready fitted with the required adaptations and there are no additional hold ups to getting on the road."

Further extensive adaptations are available at more affordable rates and manufacturer-fitted adaptations are an option when ordering a new car.

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Models featured: (1) Hyundai i10 1.2 Comfort 5dr in Continental Silver metallic paint with Nil advance payment and £43.25 per week. (2) Hyundai i20 1.2 Classic 5dr in Continental Silver metallic paint with Nil advance payment and £45 per week. (3) Hyundai i30 1.4 Classic 5 dr in Continental Silver metallic paint with Nil advance payment and £46.50 per week. *To qualify for these offers you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Motability Component or the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Motability Supplement. Offers only valid where the application to Motability occurs between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2010 and subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note that 20,000 miles per year are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Fuel consumption figures in MPG (l/100km) for the Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 5dr: Urban 44.1 (6.4), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 54.3 (5.2), CO_2 Emissions 124g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 Comfort 1.2 Manual: Urban 44.8 (6.3) Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 56.5 (5.0), CO_2 Emissions 119g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 5dr Hatchback: Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2), Combined 46.3 (6.1). CO_2 Emissions 145g/km.

Motability can help fund needy cases

MOTABILITY can sometimes offer financial help towards the cost of a suitable car, adaptations, driving lessons or a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle.

Grants average nearly £20 million a year, helping some 5,000 customers with their mobility needs. There are several sources:

• Charitable Grants

Funding for charitable grants comes from Motability's fund-raising activities and the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust, to provide help towards:

1) Advance Payments on standard production cars.

2) Adaptations: such as hand controls, swivel seats, wheelchair hoists.

3) Driving Lessons: customers aged between 16 and 24, and in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component may be eligible for help towards the cost of driving lessons.

• Government Grants

Motability also administers funds on behalf of the Government for people who need a heavily adapted car, often a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle. There are three possible sources:

The Specialised Vehicles Fund: for people who need a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle, either as a driver or passenger.

War Pensioners: people receiving the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement and qualifying for a Motability car, may be eligible for a grant from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, based on medical records.

If this requires a vehicle or adaptations costing more than the standard grants available, an application can be made to Motability for help.

Ex-Invalid Vehicle Service Holders: Motability also deals with applications from customers who previously drove a three-wheeled, blue "trike", or other Government vehicle.

ROOMY: Three Motability contenders which are roomy yet compact and stylish: Daihatsu Materia (right) and the Hyundai i800 (above right); the VW Touran (above) delivers a more upmarket feel along with its obvious practicality

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* Price shown is for Savvy 1.2 Style MT; manufacturer's list price £7,995 excluding metallic which is an option at £320. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. ± Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance to manufacturer's schedules. Terms and conditions apply.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 16.6 (17.0) - 61.4 (4.6), extra-urban 32.8 (8.6) - 88.3 (3.2), combined 24.2 (11.7) - 76.3 (3.7), CO_2 Emissions 274 - 98 g/km.

Under the Motability Contract Hire Scheme for new cars, a driver can get the use of a brand new version of one of the following cars at Nil Advance Payment (optional metallic or pearlescent paint is available free of charge to Motability customers): all-new Astra Exclusiv 1.7CDTi 16v (110PS) (£18,285 OTR, as shown with optional 17-inch alloy wheels, total £18,595 OTR); Insignia Hatchback Exclusiv 2.0CDTi 16v (130PS) (£20,365 OTR, as shown with optional Plus Pack – 18-inch alloy wheels and front fog lights – and Intelligent Adaptive Forward Lighting, total £21,670 OTR). The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. Offer ends 30 June 2010. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Offer valid from 1 April 2010 – 30 June 2010. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, which will be taken in lieu of the monthly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. (Vaux91972)

ALFA ROMEO

147, 1.6TS 5DR, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering trip computer front parking sensors quickclear windscreen, met red, 37051 miles, £3300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, JTDM Ducati corse, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 5396 miles, £14500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM SPORTWAGON LUSSO, 2008, air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, stromboli grey, 9532 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £16000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GT, 1.8ts cloverleaf, 2008, black metallic with grey leather, 28000 miles, £11950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

GT, JDTm, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 54000 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ASTON MARTIN

DB9, Volante V12, nk57eef, full leather, satellite navigation, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, heated seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, sports seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, brake assist, multiple airbags, quick-clear screen, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rain-sensing wipers, xenon headlamps, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, where will you find another at this great value. at big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, blue, 12001 miles, £79997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, FSI SPORT, 2003, abs brakes central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 39000 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDi 170 QUATTRO, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, meteor grey, 23009 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A5, COUPE SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser mp3 player power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation single cd player sports seats tinted glass traction control twin airbags xenon headlamps curtain airbags front parking sensors remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, white, 25000 miles, £27000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A6, FSI Quattro SE Tip Auto, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation, blue, 44500 miles, £13250, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 118d Sport 5dr, mf07faj, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, sports seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 0 miles, £8987, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d SE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking, silver, 76698 miles, £7080, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, MSport, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, metallic black, 22000 miles, £26000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 630i sport convertible auto, 2006, grey metallic with beige leather sport seats, 61000 miles, £24950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.0 SE CONV, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 24997 miles, £14997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 3.0v6 crd auto, 2006, midnight blue pearl metallic with dark slate grey, 36000 miles, £10950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CROSSFIRE, V6, 7578079, air conditioning, full leather, electric seats, heated seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, height adjustable seat, twin air bags, side air bags, abs, auto-dip rearview, cruise control, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, front fog lamps, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, blue, 60100 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

GRAND VOYAGER, 7745079, air conditioning, climate control, power steering, full leather, head restraints, electric seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, privacy glass, parking sensor, centre armrest, multi-disc cd player, radio, twin air bags, curtain airbags, cruise control, traction control, abs, auto-dip rearview, powered folding mirrors, trip computer, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, roof rails, alloy wheels, stow & go, silver, 47200 miles, £11995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, gk51gwk, central locking remote central locking front electric windows electric windows passenger airbag drivers airbag power steering air conditioning immobiliser alarm half leather interior alloy wheels, nightfire red, 65000 miles, £3000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FERRARI

F430, Spider, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows heated seats leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 5049 miles, £84900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, Pop, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, pasodoble red, 600 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2010, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, bossanova white, 1000 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4 Dynamic, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags trip computer remote central locking, crossover black, 14299 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.4 DYNAMIC, 2007, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, metallic red, 16000 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 5, gn52lzp, insurance group 3 audio remote control body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment history, moondust silver, 62000 miles, £4000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, ap58axn, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 1 owner service history, moondust silver, 9000 miles, £9000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 ST170 5DR, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights full service history half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint power steering tinted glass trip computer remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, met grey, 73999 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4ZETEC (CLIMATE), 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tinted glass trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen, black, 46326 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GALAXY, TDCI Zetec, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points roof bars remote audio controls, silver metallic, 46700 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, Ka 3dr, gn52wzp, immobiliser, power steering, air bag, head restraints, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, aluminium silver, 58000 miles, £2499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

KUGA, Titanium Tdci, 7820079, air conditioning, power steering, climate control, half leather, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, parking sensor, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, cd player, radio, rear headrests, auto-dip rearview, rain-sensing wipers, adjustable steering column, abs, cruise control, twin air bags, curtain airbags, trip computer, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, 8500 miles, £19495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCi Zetec, 2008, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 16261 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 2.0 Zetec TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer front parking sensors remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, panther black, 2160 miles, £19000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 1.8 Titanium TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer panoramic sunroof front parking sensors remote central locking isofix child seat points multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, ink blue, 2915 miles, £20000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

STREETKA, 16v Hard/Softtop Winter Edition, full leather, remote central locking, power steering, air con, multi-disc cd player, factory hard top, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric front windows, abs, twin air bags, cd player, heated seats, colour coded body, 16'' alloys, car comes complete with factory colour coded detachable hard top which has a neat bag for summer storage. there is also a perspex wind deflector fitted to the car. surely an ideal summer car dont miss it!!, french blue metallic, 42000 miles, £5299, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TOURNEO, 9 SEAT TREND INC AIR CON PRE REG, 59, 115 ps, minibus, full dealer facilities, warranty, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, blue tooth hands free, only 1 remaining. 9 seater, grey, 50 miles, £17990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TOURNEO, TRANSIT 9 SEAT LIMITED PRE REG, 59, 140 ps, minibus, finance available, full dealer facilities, warranty, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, alloy wheels, blue tooth hands free. 9 seater, grey, 50 miles, £18990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, 330 MWB MED ROOF TREND, 59, 115 ps, panel van, factory fitted bulk head, finance available, full dealer facilities, warranty, cd player, alloy wheels, air conditioning. blue, 50 miles, £17990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 automatic, remote central locking, power steering, full leather, cd player, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, head restraints, 15'' alloys, blue, 88000 miles, £3499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

S-TYPE, SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit climate control drivers airbag dvd electric windows full service history leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation front parking sensors remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) remote audio controls, indigo blue with barley leather, 63500 miles, £11490, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, 2.2D SE, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 15000 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, 2.0 D SE, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers quickclear windscreen roof bars remote audio controls, pacific blue, 83358 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

XF, Premium Luxury, 2010, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation tinted glass, indigo blue, 14140 miles, £33000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XK, V8, 2010, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloyls automatic cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 59 miles, £60800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LOTUS

ELISE, S, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player, black, 11000 miles, £26000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ELISE, 1.8 S, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights metallic paint leather interior power steering sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 18247 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

EVORA, 3.5 V6 2 SPORTS PREMIUM TECH, 2010, liquid blue, 200 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

EXIGE, 1.8 PERFORMANCE and TOURING PACK, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior split folding rear seats sports seats remote central locking, aspen white, 13000 miles, £30000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, Expression 16v 3dr, gk58owg, blue, 750 miles, £9495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

CLIO, Rip Curl, 07, 1 lady owner, low millage fsh (renault) low insurance group, immaculate, black, 21500 miles, £5995, Gardiner, 01304 611386 (PRIVATE)

ESPACE, 3.00, 2008, black, 55 miles, £27500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRAND ESPACE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 58700 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KOLEOS, 2.0 dCi DYNAMIQUE, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid remote central locking, blue, 4785 miles, £17000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KOLEOS, 2.0 dCi DYNAMIQUE, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid remote central locking, blue, 4785 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, Dynamique, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, red, 75000 miles, £2100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MEGANE, priviledge, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 71433 miles, £3700, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SCENIC, Dynamique, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 16800 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TWINGO, TCE GT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 14000 miles, £6711, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SUBARU

IMPREZA, 1.5R, 2007, air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags sports seats traction control, blue, 15289 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IMPREZA, 1.5R, 2007, air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags sports seats traction control, blue, 15289 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

IMPREZA, 1.5R, 2007, air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags sports seats traction control, blue, 15289 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

IMPREZA, WRX Turbo AWD, 3879182, remote central locking, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, abs, centre armrest, head restraints, sports seats, colour coded body, multiple airbags, cd player, radio cassette, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear headrests, 16'' alloys, 4x4, silver, 30000 miles, £8495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

ALTO, GL, 2005, automatic transmission drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering split folding rear seats, red, 56000 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRAND VITARA, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking, blue, 19363 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

JIMNY, JLX, au03wub, power steering, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, cd player, radio, metallic paintwork, 4x4, aluminium silver, 59000 miles, £2745, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

SWIFT, GL, 2006, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats twin airbags isofix child seat points, metallic silver, 20000 miles, £5495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SWIFT, glx, 2008, air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags trip computer twin airbags, blue, 14863 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SWIFT, 1.5 GLX, 2009, air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser mp3 player power steering trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, superior white, 3002 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SX4, GLX 5dr, gk08wve, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, twin air bags, colour coded body, head restraints, cd player, radio, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, 15'' alloys, blue, 15000 miles, £7489, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

WAGON R, Wagon R++ GL, w342ykn, immobiliser, power steering, electric windows, air bag, cloth upholstery, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, green, 56000 miles, £1999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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Starts at 3.00pm
Approximately 100 ~ 150 cars on offer, all makes & models.

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Starts at 4.00pm
Approximately 50 ~ 60 Commercial vehicles
we also hope to have some caravans & campers.

Notes for all of our Auctions
Although entries are accepted up to 7.00pm on Sunday 2nd May, we would strongly advise you, where possible, to book your vehicles in as early as possible, either by phone, email, or our new instant pre-booking service available on the internet to get maximum coverage.
Our website has over 1000 visits each day, and as well as a description of your vehicle, we can now include photographs. To book your vehicle in instantly on the internet, simply visit our website at www.hobbsparker.co.uk and click on "Car Auctions", then click on "Add Vehicle to Sale List".
As well as our usual opening times, we shall be open from 3.00pm to 7.00pm Sat 1st and Sun 2nd May to take entries. **Regrettably no entries will be accepted on the sale day. All start times are approximate and the auction will run continuously.**

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

REMEMBER when the word 'sale' really meant cut-price bargains that could persuade shoppers to queue overnight?

Well, they saw something like it at Lenleys furniture store in Canterbury this week – see our story and video link inside – but that's about our only nod to the past, as we look ahead to new technology in business and putting the recession behind us.

There's still an election on May 6 to get past first though – more inside.

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Ticket site takes on giant in £6bn battle

IN A classic David and Goliath contest, a small Tunbridge Wells-based web agency has launched a rival to established online rail ticketing website thetrainline.com, ***writes Steve Loader***.

MyTrainTicket.co.uk says it is out to crack thetrainline's virtual market monopoly and also raise UK online sales of rail tickets.

Of an overall rail ticket market worth more than £6 billion, only 15 per cent is sold online against 50 per cent in the rival airline market.

MyTrainTicket.co.uk – the brainchild of the award-winning Assertis agency in Tunbridge Wells – aims to change the face of the market with a mixture of technology and alliance with a company that seems, at first glance, an enemy of the railways – Airmiles.

ROBIN WELLS: Challenge

Under this ground-breaking and exclusive partnership, rail travellers can now collect one Airmile for every £10 spent – a big incentive for regular users, commuters and the leisure sector. They can also save up to 80 per cent on their ticket anyway by booking in advance rather than at the station on the day.

Assertis is a privately-owned specialist in web design and marketing and has had experience with online and mobile train ticketing since April, 2008, with clients Wrexham and Shropshire Railways, and Chiltern Railways.

It says the mobile and self-print tickets, incorporating barcodes, have been a hit with passengers and train operators alike.

Assertis believes that MyTrainTicket.co.uk's exclusive Airmiles offering, combined with passenger-friendly innovations on its site can change the face of a potentially huge market.

MyTrainTicket.co.uk executive chairman Robin Wells said: "Passengers appreciate the value of competition and we believe our innovative partnership with Airmiles will encourage more people to book online and to travel by train, helping to reduce traffic on the roads.

"Our booking experience is far better than anything that already exists and will help grow the market."

MyTrainTicket.co.uk simplifies ticket buying with 'one-click' access to the best fares by price as well as route, showing all available Advance, Off Peak and Anytime fares on one page.

It has also removed a well-known passenger irritant – the website shows clearly where two singles are cheaper than a return.

Other innovations include the ability to add a Plusbus ticket – giving unlimited bus and tram travel within the urban area of your destination – for over 275 towns and cities in the country.

This means business and leisure passengers can now reduce their carbon footprint further, and save money, by not having to jump in a taxi for the final mile. Further enhancements are promised soon, such as more information on station facilities to help passengers with specific needs, such as the elderly and those with disabilities.

Airmiles director Andrea Burchett said: "We know our members love to travel and use trains on a regular basis. This new partnership with MyTrainTicket.co.uk represents a great opportunity to collect Airmiles as they book their train travel to use on future travel and leisure rewards that we offer."

The rewards include everything from online shopping with partner brands and stores, hotels, tour operators, car hire, days out to places such as Legoland and Alton Towers, and even English Heritage annual passes.

Mr Wells said: "Our positive dialogue with the train operating companies suggests the future looks bright for major technological advances in online ticketing."

Easter bonus

SHOPPERS at a major Kent centre ignored bad weather and pre-election jitters to deliver buoyant Easter trading, according to new figures.

Ashford Designer Outlet reported sales across its 80 stores rose more than 14 per cent over the Easter weekend, with footfall up nearly six per cent, compared with the same period last year.

Perhaps surprisingly so soon after a recession, shoppers also targeted designer brands, with sales rising 58 per cent, while casual wear rose 44 per cent. Popular spring items included tea dresses, strappy sandals, handbags and swimwear.

Recession-hardened firms show their steel

NEW figures show Kent and neighbouring areas are spearheading a steely resolve by firms to deflect any last blows from the recession.

Statistics from the Equifax Business Failures Report for the first quarter of 2010 show business failures in London and the South East were down year on year and also better than the last quarter of 2009, when the country showed its first feeble signs of emerging from the downturn.

Equifax spokesman Nic Beishon admitted that this year's fall against late 2009 was still very small – just half a percentage point – but could be an important sign that companies are managing their operations better, from cost cutting to improved collections.

He said: "While this number is small in itself I believe it is an encouraging sign of a turnaround in fortunes for the economy as a whole, although clearly there is still much to do to put real confidence back into commerce."

Kent and neighbouring counties have also been faring better than London, where there was a year-on-year drop in failures of 4.8 per cent in the first quarter and a small 0.3 per cent increase against the final quarter of 2009.

For Kent and other South East counties though, the year-on-year decline was 15.2 per cent and a healthy 4.8 per cent drop in early 2010 against the last three months of 2009.

"There is no getting away from the fact that the economy is still incredibly fragile," said Mr Beishon, "but these latest figures do give some hope that businesses are fighting hard to come out of the recession alive and kicking.

"Businesses and trade bodies all across the UK should take heart from these latest figures, but need to be mindful that it's still early days to be believing this is a clear trend, especially while the economy remains fragile as we await the outcome of the General Election.

"Businesses must continue to take precautions to protect themselves from some of the risks of the difficult trading conditions.

"They need to continue to use rigorous credit checks, alongside ongoing monitoring of the financial status of customers and suppliers."

Welcome ...

... to the first edition of Business Week – a fresh approach to business coverage in our series of weekend newspapers published for the county.

The very title of the new-look section underlines the edge we have through offering Kent business news and advice within a bright and readable weekly format.

But it also dovetails with exciting new media, to give you up-to-the-minute information on new developments via our website businessforkent.co.uk, where you will also be able to subscribe to our new business e-bulletin out every Tuesday. As ever with KOS Media's award-winning newspapers, you can also read Business Week online – click on the Saturday or Sunday e-editions at wwwkentnews.co.uk. While you're at the site, you might like to download our excellent App for the iPhone so that you can read KOS Media titles and business easily online anywhere.

We are also committed to exploring the latest new media such as Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook for yet more delivery of business news; you will find much more about these fast-growing outlets within the next few pages.

For a start, guest contributor Nick Towers of Sagittarius Digital looks at May 6 and what is likely to be dubbed the first Digital General Election, with clues on how the new media and technology may be increasingly used by far-sighted businesses.

In our new feature, The Big Interview, we also speak with a vastly-experienced Kent businessman with a reputation for forward-thinking, Arvid Jayal, who looks into the future of IT.

He also puts a positive spin on the aftermath of the recession, which he sees as a big opportunity for those who embrace new technology and, as he puts, don't simply sit crying into their beer.

And there are real signs of an upturn; inward investment guru Paul Wookey, the chief executive of Locate in Kent, tells us that London commercial property is on the up again and the ripples are starting to hit Kent.

It's an exciting time to be launching Business Week.

STEVE LOADER, BUSINESS EDITOR

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We've never had it so good – digitally

IT HAS been hailed by the press as the first 'digital election', where battles will be won and lost through digital marketing channels, ***writes Nick Towers of Sagittarius Digital***.

It will also show British businesses how they can use this new media to get their messages and marketing across to current and potential customers – especially as they seek a cost-effective, post-recession edge in their market place.

Digital marketing was highly effective for Barack Obama during last year's race for the White House.

Mr Obama's tactical use of email, mobile SMS, and social networking sites was streets ahead of his rivals.

And UK political parties are following suit. David Cameron's Twittering is gathering momentum and the use of Twitter and social networking sites like Facebook generally has engaged a younger, tech-savvy audience.

Both major parties are using email as a way at maintaining constant dialogue with supporters. The Conservatives are reported to have bought more than 1,500 key phrases for Google AdWords advertising.

In the USA, one of Mr Obama's strategies was to ensure the right message was delivered at the right time, through the right digital channel. His use of mobiles allowed communication with his database of over one million mobile numbers right up to the moment they walked into the voting booths.

And Facebook, which overtook Google for the first time as the most visited site in the USA, in March, 2010, is now acknowledged as the key channel to engaging a younger audience.

But there are signs that Britain is waking up to the new force. Democracy UK has posted an App for downloading voter registration forms and is following up with a Facebook ad campaign, targeting 18 to 24-year-olds.

Research also shows that up to half of those aged 18 to 25 have become more interested in the election through online political activity. This change in voter demographics could have major implications and perhaps lead to a 'Cool Britannia' brand of younger, more connected politics and politicking.

With online intelligence service HitWise UK reporting that the 2010 Budget saw voters respond significantly through financial and business websites, the message to the parties is clear: the internet will be a voice of the people. What else can the parties try digitally?

NICK TOWERS: The dawn of digital democracy

Better mobile communications – with voters signing up for emails, only the Tories have asked for a mobile number to receive free text alerts but, as I said earlier, mobile comms was a winner for Mr Obama.

More viral activity – the Tories have been the butt of a low-cost Labour digital viral campaign featuring 'airbrushed' David Cameron posters.

Integrated campaigns – current digital activity tends to be fragmented. Better links from offline to online and across digital channels would increase longer-term engagement.

This could include digital TV's red button and Bluetooth broadcasting around key outdoor media sites.

Google Calendar can keep supporters/customers up to date with key events, seamlessly integrating with users' mobile and computer calendars.

However, though the parties use the new channels, they still tend to pump out old campaign messages. The Tories' iPhone App is just another party line carrier; interesting, but not necessarily engaging. A better use of such media is augmented reality and/or gaming mechanics, creating something interactive and fun.

As a voting population, one thing is certain – borrowing from Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's 1957 speech – we've never had it so good in terms of being able to openly discuss the issues of the day.

The party that listens effectively is likely to be the one we see celebrating come May 6.

• ***Nick Towers is director of Digital at Folkestone-based Sagittarius Digital, part of Sagittarius Marketing. www.sagittarius-digital.com.***

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

MICHELIN-listed chef Scott Goss has opened The Gallery restaurant, with celebrity chef Mark Sargeant, at North West Kent College in Gravesend.

It has been hailed as a new dining and business concept: quality food at reasonable prices, and prepared, cooked and served by the hospitality and catering students of the college itself.

The idea is to offers students the chance to work in a professional restaurant environment at college. Mr Goss, who recently appeared on Gordon Ramsay's F Word TV show, runs the highly regarded Swan restaurant in West Malling where some North West Kent College students go on work placements.

GROUNDED air services during the Icelandic volcanic eruption illustrate that companies must have contingency plans for unforeseen events, says Virgin Media Business.

Virgin's Alistair McKinnon said the effects on project deadlines and productivity can be considerable, adding: "This can often be avoided, by employing tools such as video-conferencing, teleconferencing and desktop sharing, which allow workers to meet up 'virtually'.

"Workers stranded in airports could even continue to work, by securely connecting to a virtual private network over wi-fi.

"Companies that already use these tools will be aware of the cost and time savings. Reductions can be made in the time staff spend travelling and the cost of flights and rail tickets can also be cut.

"All businesses face unexpected disruption from time to time, yet while it may be impossible to predict the next big event, that doesn't mean that you can't prepare in advance."

METCALFE Stanley Hicks, the Hadlow-based chartered building surveyors, has joined with Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce to host a networking evening in aid of Hospice in the Weald.

The hospice is marking its 30th anniversary and is Metcalfe Stanley Hicks' chosen charity for 2010.

For places at the event, on Thursday, May 20, from 6-8pm, at The Old Engine House, Cemetery Lane, Hadlow, email Maxine@kentinvictachamber.co.uk.

BUSINESSES are squandering millions of litres of petrol because employees don't drive company vehicles efficiently.

Research by telematics firm Trimble MRM showed that poor driving technique, inaccurate fuel gauges and bad record keeping all contribute to companies being unaware of fuel waste – a problem exacerbated by recent hikes in petrol and diesel prices.

Trimble says driver feedback technology can make an average commercial vehicle up to 15 per cent more efficient.

A spokesman said: "Guesses on fuel card and mileage logs are at best problematic and open to mistakes or abuse.

"It's not about being 'Big Brother' and it's not about penalising workers who drive for their jobs – far from it. It's about helping increase productivity in a costly environment."

HOUSE-builders may be facing the toughest market in years, but 17 local builders are celebrating being commended in the NHBC's Health and Safety Awards.

NHBC – the standard-setter and consumer protection body for new UK homes – launched the awards last year.

Spokesman Simon Mantle, said: "As the industry emerges from a difficult period, now is the perfect time to recognise site managers who have maintained exceptional health and safety standards.

"Emergence from a recession is often coupled with a rise in the number of accidents on-site. These awards will play an important role in encouraging best practice and driving forward health and safety standards."

The winners will be announced during a national award ceremony in Birmingham on Friday, May 21.

Queen's Award tonic boosts star exporter

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

CRITICAL work in the battle against cancer and heart disease has helped a Sittingbourne firm to a coveted Queen's Award for Enterprise.

The SCIPAC biotech company, founded in 1985 and employing some 60 staff, supplies medical products for the accurate diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of more than 300 conditions.

Stephane Argivier

These include critical protein 'markers' of diseases, indicating the presence of a condition – key components in diagnostic kits used to test blood samples and provide vital prognosis and a course of treatment.

Some identify illnesses such as cancer, cardiac disease and rheumatoid arthritis, making accurate diagnosis earlier, enabling best treatment sooner and giving the patient the best chance of a successful outcome.

The Queen's Award has been made for two categories: Innovation (for commercially successful and innovative products or services); and International Trade (recognising an outstanding or continuous achievement in overseas earnings).

SCIPAC's MD Stephane Argivier said: "We are honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Enterprise in two different categories as tangible recognition of the company's achievements.

"It is also a salute to our Kent work force, who have contributed to our success and this award, as well as demonstrating how this county can foster great businesses."

Company representatives will attend a reception at Buckingham Palace in July, when they will meet the Queen and the Minister of State for Trade and Industry.

A royal envoy will then visit the company and its staff later this year to present the award – a crystal bowl.

The company can also use the Queen's Award emblem for advertising, marketing and packaging for five years, as a symbol of quality and success.

SCIPAC has bucked the economic downturn, boosting productivity and turnover to more than £5 million a year and also growing market share, now averaging of 23 per cent annually for the past three years.

An expanded product range and the new SunnyLab division, catering for the academic research market, have fuelled the growth along with export sales doubling between 2006 and 2009 to account for 90 per cent of production.

HEALTH BENEFITS: In the SCIPAC lab

SCIPAC now exports to more than 30 countries with 60 per cent going to the United States of America.

The company says the key to these positives at a time of re-trenchment in the UK economy has been ultra-modern facilities, a dedicated customer services team and shipping department to service international clients, and a quality team reviewing all systems, procedures and standards.

END PRODUCT: Medical supplies from SCIPAC

Monopoly game ends with Nisa little earner

THE CO-OP's £1.57 billion acquisition of the rival Somerfield supermarket chain in 2008 prompted the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) to decree that the former must dispose of 144 stores.

One of the awkward locations where Co-op could not be allowed to have a monopoly was central Gillingham, where a former Somerfield store in High Street has now re-opened as a Nisa Extra.

It follows a deal – for an undisclosed sum and brokered by Christie and Co – for the 10,000 sq ft store to be taken over by Raj Raichura, who becomes one of the few independent retailers to meet MMC approval for such a change.

Mr Raichura already operated a Nisa Local store in Essex and was able to satisfy the MMC that he had the market knowledge, capacity and support to compete and survive against an established Co-op just a mile away.

Mr Raichura said: "This shop, which we have already refitted, is an exciting opportunity and I would like to thank Christie and Co in helping me with its acquisition."

• LOCAL convenience store chain Kentmart has expanded to eight outlets with the freehold acquisition of a Costcutter at Leysdown-on-Sea, Sheppey.

The 1,200sq ft convenience store with private three-bedroom accommodation across the first and second floors is claimed to be one of the busiest independently run convenience stores in Kent during the summer months. The deal, for an undisclosed sum, was also handled by Christie and Co.

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Ben Bradford, MBA

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BUSINESS WEEK

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'My Business Week …'

by KOS Media commercial director Christine Davidson

MONDAY – early KOS Media strategy meeting. Question: do I really like breakfast meetings – particularly on a Monday? No.

Then, with Business Week advertising manager Clifford, ring round to existing and potential customers before closing bookings for our first ever Business Week.

PM: activate recruitment team to finalise copy and bookings for the KOS Media midweek Yourlocal papers' jobs section.

TUESDAY – meeting with KOS business editor Steve Loader and the production team to finalise our debut edition of Business Week.

Can't wait to see how the new printed product looks after months of planning. What's lunch? Maybe I can investigate that concept next week?

PM: presentation with Clifford to a national brand and their agency. Asked to create a tailored partnership package. Back to the office to finalise Business Week visuals.

WEDNESDAY – wearing my recruitment/jobsforkent hat I look through our jobs website and Twitter response stats, looking good.

PM: meeting with a potential client who wants to explore recruitment advertising options to save money on current spend. Offered the annual deal, saving them 30 per cent off current spend – very happy customer.

Race across the county to another Business Week prospect; the e-Bulletin option was a big hit and we discussed a cost-effective package allowing them to attach part of their own newsletter to ours. They like the multimedia offering. At the office now to look at photos taken on Jason's (our development director) phone of the stand for Kent 2020 while tasting the give-away mints.

THURSDAY – all day at Kent 2020 Vision. A major chance to network.

A special day too for my team as we launch Business Week and its multimedia package with a stand at the show and do a lot of mingling. Business editor Steve and Clifford go walkabout, talking about stories and business strategies and making some good contacts.

Quite a few raised eyebrows at the range of options to access Kent business news. Nearly ran out of business cards... and need a new pair of feet. Business TV was a hit, too!

FRIDAY – I picked up lots of messages, business cards and emails yesterday, but a return to the desk after the day at 2020 highlights a whole lot more.

I know we all ask this but why do people feel the need to email and then leave a voicemail asking: "I've just emailed you ....."

Hey, wait up, the same person has just sent a follow-up email: "Did you get my messages?"

I need a lie down ... oh, what?

Another meeting ... fantastic.

Web calls the tune on Arvid's new frontier

Arvid Jayal has a lifetime of cutting-edge media experience and a passion for where the new frontier is leading us now. And as CEO of consulting firm Westling and a top executive with Time Warner Publishing, a division of leading media and entertainment conglomerate Time Warner, he also has a good vantage point. Business editor STEVE LOADER asked the Kent-based expert to select the media icons showing most promise and share his top business tips

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK THE BIG INTERVIEW

FEW people can put hand on heart and say: "I know exactly where the web will be in a few years' time," but the best-run businesses are looking at everything with an open mind, says Arvid Jayal.

And as business development director for Time Warner Publishing, with experience across many industry sectors, he believes this approach is the make or break of any business.

"Some are only just waking up to it though," he added. "I recently had a meeting with a traditional company and they said, 'Oh, we've always thought about the internet but never really understood it, but now it's about survival' – it's almost too late.

"And it has all happened so fast – look at Google's growth – and still happening. I heard a brilliant description of how the web was changing the business landscape.

"Up to now, it has been like working on land – seeing the trees, the rocks, the mountains and being familiar with them– but now the online dimension is like entering the ocean.

"You have a basic understanding of it, but you don't know exactly what you'll find as you go deeper and there is a lot to learn about the threats and opportunities in this exciting but new environment."

It underlines Arvid's lifelong passion for technology, though he also has a first and enduring love for music.

He grew up in Hampstead, London, but moved to Beckenham after meeting his wife, Jo. The couple have a son, Jonathan.

Classically-trained and with a degree in music, with eclectic tastes leaning mostly towards jazz-fusion, Arvid plays flute, guitar and saxophone and originally worked as a professional musician. Yet another interest in production and broadcasting led to Scottish TV and his first job.

What follows is a fascinating CV involving print and radio advertising, music production, major exhibitions and shows, publishing, IT and business start-ups.

Now aged 56 and still regularly riding his beloved motorcycle, he has also found time to be a photographer, form a new film and multimedia production company and, above all, still relishes a fresh challenge.

"I've had the privilege to work for some very good

Arvid Jayal's CV

- 1976-83 Scottish TV – sales manager
- 1983-87 The Guardian – display group head
- 1987-89 News on Sunday – group advertising manager. Ill-fated newspaper start-up masterminded by campaigning journalist John Pilger
- 1989 founded production company Music Shed, involved in the launch of radio stations including Jazz FM, building a radio advertising production business for 200 clients (Music Shed is now absorbed into Westling)
- 1993-96 Miller-Freeman – group events director responsible for all events in the engineering sector dealing with major exhibitions
- 1996-99 Reed Exhibitions – global industry director responsible for the largest and most influential hospitality events in the world

1999-2001 Centaur Publishing – group publishing and events director

2001 Founded Westling, offering consultancy, business development, online strategy, marketing, audio-visual production, IT and events.

2004 to present: Time Warner Publishing – business development director with responsibility for business development, strategy, business acquisition and marketing

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companies and with innovative and visionary colleagues. Most of these opportunities have occurred by chance, as I have never had to formally apply for a job.

"This has exposed me to new ideas and opportunities, enabling me to gather a lot of experience and expertise that has stood me in good stead in business."

Surveying the wreckage of the post-recession UK economy, he takes a typically buoyant line: "There are always opportunities, and recession is a great opportunity to take stock.

"People tend to get blasé when things go well and stick with what they know, rather than looking at what they can do in a different way to meet the new challenge.

"I find it hard to listen to people crying into their beer and not doing something about it. Optimism, within reason, can make things happen."

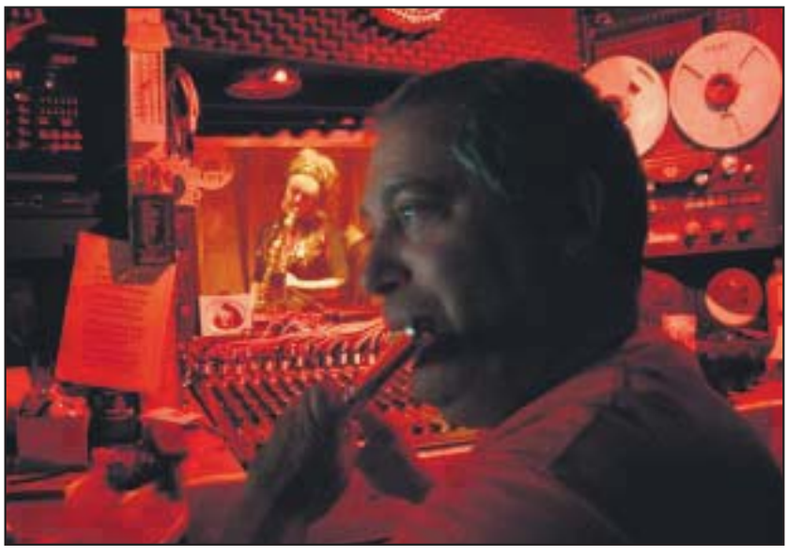
Consolidate

Referring to his own company Westling – set up some years ago and running alongside his interim post with Time Warner Publishing – he sees a lot of consultancy work available because companies are consolidating, either seeking outside help to restructure or outsourcing work.

But he says the key to emerging from recession is forward-thinking, deploying technology to open up a lead over their rivals.

He still has to fly to locations for Time Warner Publishing and for Westling and we caught up with him while grounded by the Iceland volcanic eruption, but even he admits to astonishment at what he can achieve by hooking up with colleagues 'virtually' through cloud computing networks and innovations such as Drop Box – an infrastructure that allows him and colleagues to maintain a virtual office, sharing files and collaborating even via iPhone.

And he is a huge fan of the iPhone and its convergence of communication by phone or email, internet, music and a wide range of innovative Apps, though yet to be convinced by Apple's larger and forthcoming iPad.



IN THE STUDIO: Music is an enduring obsession for multi-instrumentalist Arvid Jayal

But he believes the most exciting business development is social media via sites such as Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn: "It is breaking down the old business barriers and strait-jacketed thinking of the manager and his small team and opening up to a much wider world," he said.

But he is worried that this brave new world is threatened by fearful and sometimes over-zealous corporates locking down their computer systems for understandable security reasons but resulting in the prevention of free and speedy flows of information.

This is the essence of his latest private venture, Imagin8iv, an offshoot of Westling and designed to tap into the new trend towards high online e-learning and training driven by high quality 'rich media'.

Meanwhile, he is still energised by his own business and his wide ranging role at Time Warner Publishing: "Again, I was approached by an executive search company for this role, but given a blank sheet to develop a new corporate identity and business acquisition strategy, and it has been fascinating – one of the most enjoyable assignments I've ever had.

"Apart from being great fun working with a great team on an international level, I have just enjoyed deploying all the skills I have acquired over my career and acquiring new ones, such as global logistics and distribution along the way."

ARVID'S TOP TIPS

- Ignore the internet and IT at your peril – everyone in business must seek to stay abreast of new developments – you may find it liberating
- Recession is a time to take stock – use it to emerge stronger and fitter
- Optimism makes things happen
- Listen and learn – making sure you have grasped all the facts means you can then interject with authority

To see this, search 'iPhone' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Apple's iPhone is fast becoming an indispensable business tool. You can use yours in two ways to stay abreast of Kent business via Business Week and its associated media, either by going direct to www.businessforkent.co.uk; or reading the Business Week e-edition via our iPhone App, downloadable from our website at www.kentnews.co.uk

Eruption and food security

TRAVELLERS stranded by the eruption of the Icelandic volcano have grabbed the headlines, *writes Pat Crawford of Hadlow College*.

But beyond the passenger chaos from aircraft grounded by volcanic ash spewing into UK and European air space, relatively little is being reported about the effects on freight services, particularly the vast amounts of fresh produce imported by air.

Figures from the Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) show we imported 41 per cent of our vegetables and 88 per cent of our fruit in 2009. Much of the more valuable produce is flown in, some from as far as Asia and East Africa. How long before some of this produce is in short supply?

Long before this latest threat, government agencies were increasingly concerned about the UK's ability to ensure food security. Farmers and growers were being exhorted to produce more food.

This new threat puts the situation into a different perspective and Charles Tassell, county chairman of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), believes it is a much-needed wake-up call.

He said: "We have become too dependant on imported foodstuffs. UK production is insufficient to cover emergencies of this type.

"Britain has some of the best farmers in the world and we are capable of producing a lot more food. We need to raise production now and future-proof food security."

Mr Tassell, who is an ex-Hadlow College student and farms at Ulcombe, near Maidstone, added: "Seasonality has been forgotten and the youngest generation of cooks have little awareness of what it means.

"We need to become more self-sufficient all-year-round and this has to involve understanding what can be grown in this country and when and how to use it.'

Hadlow's finance director Mark Lumsdon-Taylor sees another potential problem: "For a variety of reasons, farming was in decline for years and the industry recruited few new entrants.

"The outlook for most farming sectors is now much brighter. Consequently, the industry requires more graduates and highly-trained and skilled entrants."

The silver lining to this particular cloud of volcanic dust must be the recognition that a buoyant and successful farming industry is fundamental to our food security.

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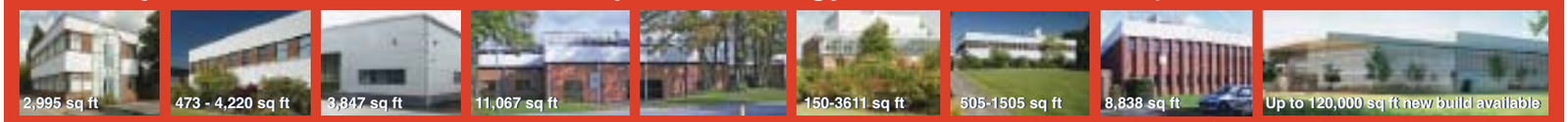

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BUSINESS WEEK

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Awaiting capital's ripple of recovery

Locate in Kent is the investment promotion agency for Kent and Medway, funded by Kent County Council, the South East England Development Agency, Medway Council, district councils and the Kent Developers' Group – a partnership of commercial property developers from the private sector.

Since 1997 it has helped more than 500 companies to locate or expand in Kent, creating 23,000 jobs. Its latest annual results will be presented in June, but Business Week asked for some early thoughts on a challenging year and the way ahead

THE chief executive at Locate in Kent, Paul Wookey, has a short message for London commercial property agents, ***writes KOS Media business editor Steve Loader***.

It is: "We are not remote, we are not peripheral," but is resigned to the fact that he will probably make himself hoarse and in vain. Nevertheless, he sees signs that demand for London office space is starting to outstrip supply as the economy puts the recession behind it – good news for Kent.

"London is the only place for some companies, especially bigger corporates, but some companies do want to save about 50 per cent on their office overheads and move to Kent – gaining a better quality of life for their staff, too."

The pace of the turnaround in the capital, though, has raised concerns for Locate in Kent (LiK) as director of marketing and research Mandy Bearne pointed out: "During the recession, developers stopped building speculative ventures – very few companies build their own business premises – and Kent could soon start to run out of commercial space.

PAUL WOOKEY

"Investment funds are looking for opportunities though and Kent is on their radar, but banks are still reticent generally, although one or two are taking a slightly more enlightened view."

The other major barrier to investment is the UK's sluggish planning system, though LiK's council and developer parents were said to be working to unlock this.

On balance though, Mr Wookey reckons the county's ability to attract new investment and the fact companies held up well in the recession, means it is better placed than before. Though he warned it could be another couple of years before the county is back to some sort of normality.

Kent's profile and image before the downturn had been changed significantly by the new HS1 high-speed rail link he said, and he predicted more fast bus networks linking new developments such as those at Dartford and Ashford.

"The infrastructure of the county is much better balanced than before the recession," he said. "What you would have seen three to five years ago was the pick of investment going into mid Kent and north Kent. The picture now is investment going into all parts of the county."

However, he warned of complacency in some areas, which seemed to escape the worst of the recession but seeing a nudge upwards in unemployment trends.

"West Kent, for instance, needs to recognise it must compete just as aggressively as east Kent – but it is part of our job to tell people these things."

Perhaps surprisingly, he seems less worried by bigger players in the inward investment game elsewhere in the country, such as the North and Scotland, which can call upon big grants for big, headline-grabbing employment projects.

"Dover and Thanet still qualify for Tier 2 grant aid, so we can afford as good a support as many of our more obvious rivals," Mr Wookey said.

"But what we don't want to do is sell Kent on the back of incentives. It has to be justified on a year-on-year basis – more sustainable.

"We tend to play down our grant availability, but may use it if it helps sway a project."

The LiK pitch was more about good and improving communications – nationally and internationally – quality of life and flexibility, he added.

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How a sale should be done

AT A TIME when signs proclaiming 'Sale!' are everywhere on the high street, scepticism tends to walk through the door before the customers do, writes Julie Maddocks.

But the three-day sale held by Canterbury's Lenleys furniture store turned the clock back to a time when that four-letter word really meant something.

Billed as the 'Great £1 million refurbishment sale', the first day saw more than 5,000 people queuing round the block and causing traffic chaos in and around the cathedral city's Westgate area.

It showed how far shoppers were prepared to go – or queue – to bag a bargain and Lenleys MD Jonathan Watts admitted it was no ordinary sale.

He said: "The sale is different in that we really do need to clear our stock."

So a 'selling out the bare walls' advertisement drawn up for the event was a fair description as the 75-year-old 'institution' prepares for a £1 million refurbishment next month.

Lenleys, founded in 1936 by school friends Len Watts and Stanley Adsett, moved from the city's Buttermarket to its current location in 1983 and the exterior of the building served the company well for 27 years, but Jonathan Watts said the Roper Road showroom was in desperate need of a facelift.

"We're aware it's not up to the mark," he said, "so we're renovating and modernising it and we want to show our customers our best.

"For the past few years, we've been very good inside the store, but externally it's not been great."

To view, search 'Lenleys' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks reports from the 'Great £1 million refurbishment sale' at Lenleys furniture store in Roper Road, Canterbury

Asked why the firm was such a Kent commercial icon and able to attract crowds of customers to its sale, Mr Watts said: "It is difficult to compete, particularly when you can buy in such volume from China, but what sets Lenleys apart is that we're unique.

"We're independent and so, whatever customers see here, they're not going to see this range of products anywhere else in the UK."

Marsh's wealth of experience

INSURANCE broker and risk adviser Marsh is expanding its Maidstone operations to meet demand for its services in the South East.

The firm has enjoyed a growth spurt over the last year and appointed Steve Adams and John Bellingan, both previously with Willis in Maidstone, to drive business development strategy and client servicing.

They will report to Maidstone office head Jas Ram. Mr Adams has worked in insurance for more than 30 years as a broker and underwriter, and was an account director for Willis.

Mr Bellingan was previously Willis's commercial business developer and has worked in insurance for more than 13 years.

In addition, Kym Ongley has been promoted to client executive.

Mr Ram said: "Enhancing our team in Maidstone is key to sustaining our ambitious growth strategy and helping clients to manage through the recession. I am delighted to welcome Steve and John to the team."

ON THE TEAM: From left – Jas Ram, Kym Ongley, Steve Adams and John Bellingan

Late payment mountain

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

NEW research shows late payment is clobbering the efforts of smaller businesses in Kent and the South East as they try to claw away from the recession.

While larger companies have a higher value of invoices paid late, as a proportion of turnover smaller businesses are still worst hit.

The findings from NatWest and RBS show 71 per cent of SMEs (small to medium-sized enterprises) in the region have suffered over the past year and wasted valuable resources chasing their money or even gone bust.

Another survey by the Association of Accountancy Technicians (AAT) names and shames bad payers – with estate agents the worst by far.

The NatWest/RBS survey shows the most vulnerable businesses – smaller ones with an annual turnover of between £250,000 and £500,000 – are hit by late payers compared with just seven per cent of medium and large firms.

Despite this though, just 45 per cent of SMEs have taken steps to improve cash flow and, of these, 11 per cent have hired an in-house credit controller.

Only nine per cent have used invoice discounting and eight per cent factoring, two effective means of plugging a cash flow gap and now widely recognised as good alternatives to mainstream funding methods.

GREG JONES

Greg Jones, NatWest and RBS MD of business and commercial banking in the South East, said: "Bad debts and late payment of invoices are endemic for UK businesses.

"For more than one in 10 (12 per cent) of firms, over 60 per cent of all their invoices are paid late, causing major cash flow problems.

"What's concerning is that so few are making use of services from their bank to help alleviate the problem. The reality for most small businesses is they are too busy to spend time chasing payment and managing debtors."

Federation of Small Businesses spokesman Stephen Alambritis said: "Poor payment practices can drastically affect cash-flow for small firms at a time when business owners are doing their best to hold on to precious funds.

"Indeed, figures from BIS show that late payments were responsible for some 4,000 business failures in 2008 alone.

"Since the downturn we have been urging businesses and agencies in both the public and private sector to sign up to the Prompt Payment Code to highlight best practice and help boost the cash-flow of small firms during these tough times."

The NatWest/RBS research also spotlighted sectors worst hit by bad debt, with the wholesale industry at number one with 93 per cent of firms suffering late payments during the year.

Other big sufferers were manufacturing (81 per cent), construction (80), business services (72) and retail (66).

The AAT survey showed estate agents came bottom of a survey by paying 18 days later than agreed terms, while painters and decorators tended to pay on time. Other bad payers surveyed included taxi firms and solicitors.

AAT spokesman Tom Kelman said: "Late payments can cause a domino effect, particularly when people are struggling with cash-flow. I'd like to see estate agents see the error of their ways and follow the fine example of prompt payers, the painters and decorators."

His top tips to ensure prompt payment:

- Credit-check new customers;
- Communicate your payment terms to customers;
- Consider offering a discount for those who pay within a certain timescale;
- Don't be afraid to chase late payments;
- Put time aside each week to deal with credit control.

He added: "Cashflow is essential to SMEs and should be viewed as priority. By taking control of who is due to pay you and when, you can help to minimise late payments."

Clearing the air

ASH from the volcanic eruption in Iceland led to misery for thousands unable to fly from or get back to the UK by air, but where does that leave them legally?

A Kent firm reckons the legal situation could be as murky as the clouds causing planes to be grounded.

Edward Foster, of Fosters Law, in Folkestone, said: "Essentially you have a contract with the airline to get you from A to B, so that means the airline should, if necessary, try to reroute your journey, thereby fulfilling their obligations.

"However, if a flight is cancelled, or delayed for more than five hours, and you are flying from an EU airport or from an airport outside the EU to an EU airport on an EU carrier, under EC Regulation 261/2004 – it is always a help to quote this – you will be given a choice between a refund or rerouting to your final destination. Under 261/2004, you are not entitled to reimbursement of any other components of your trip, such as hotel costs.

Extraordinary

"If there is a delay in getting to your destination due to rerouting, you are entitled to compensation depending on the length of journey and the delay. However, the airline is not obliged to pay compensation if it can prove the cancellation was caused by what is called 'extraordinary circumstances, which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken'."

He said the crisis had raised many more questions and equally difficult answers.

Early contacts, if the airline is unresponsive, should be the Air Transport Users Council at www.auc.org.uk; and the European Consumer Centre Network, www.ukecc.net – for when complaints concern European flights booked and operated outside the UK. If flights were part of a holiday package and the tour operator is unhelpful, contact Consumer Direct at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk.

ACCOUNTANCY and business advisory firm Reeves and Neylan has raised £1,700 for its 2009 designated charity, Playing for Success.

The scheme uses sport – Kent County Cricket Club, Ebbsfleet United FC, Margate FC and Buckmore Park kart circuit – as a motivational tool and focuses on raising literacy, numeracy and ICT standards among nine to 14-year-olds.

Receiving the cheque, Playing for Success trustee Anne Ray said: "We're very grateful for all your hard work and generosity. You have made it possible for many more children to benefit from our programmes."

Almost 250 employees within Reeves and Neylan's four offices – Canterbury, Chatham Maritime, Gatwick and London – raise funds each year from dress-down days, cake bakes, donations from golf days, and other events.

The charity for 2010 is Demelza House.

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Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 100 years

1910 **100 YEARS AGO:** GOALKEEPER Bateup was the hero for New Brompton, as they beat Bristol Rovers 2-0 in the Southern League. The keeper produced a series of saves to keep Brompton on level terms in the first-half, though the home side also threatened, with Court hitting the post.

With the score goalless at the break, Brompton took charge in the second period, when a cross-cum-shot from Hobson went in after a corner from Pickett, before an overhead kick by Reid made it 2-0.

Northfleet United moved a step closer to the Kent League title with a 4-2 win at Depot Batt, to move to within a point of leaders Sittingbourne.

With the Brickies having already completed their fixtures, Northfleet were left needing one win from their final two games to win the league.

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** IN a speech at a Kent County Cricket Club dinner, captain Colin Cowdrey, fresh from skippering England's tour of the West Indies, identified six major problems with the game.

"Throwers, draggers, time wasters, bouncers, fast bowlers who cut up the pitch and players with an attitude of personal aggression and intimidation," he replied.

"None of these problems can be touched by the laws of the game," he lamented. "They can only be overcome by each player realising these problems and by the captain, with the support of his players, making up his mind and doing something about them. The people I feel sorry for are the umpires."

Maidstone Borough Council's approach to sport was illustrated when it cracked down on Sunday go-kart racing at the market on Lockmeadow, saying carts would have to be fitted with silencers, or banned.

1985 **100 YEARS AGO:** WITH the cricket season about to start, John Woodcok of The Times tipped Kent's Graham Dilley to challenge for an England recall, after missing the entire 1984 season through injury.

"In the past Dilley has occasionally raised hopes of becoming something out of the ordinary and he is still only 26," he wrote. "A year's enforced inactivity may have helped him to mature."

His colleagues Derek Underwood and Alan Knott were also expected to challenge for recalls, having served international bans imposed after they joined the rebel tour to South Africa in 1982.

Another 26-year-old, Mark Benson, was tipped as "one to watch".

Trophies up for grabs

County clubs bid for silverware on finals day

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

FOXBURY is the setting for Kent's showpiece rugby occasion today, with the finals of all four county competitions being contested at Old Elthamians' Chislehurst ground.

The hosts will compete for the top prize in front of their home crowd after beating Sevenoaks in last Saturday's Kent Cup semi-final, as they look to salvage pride as well as silverware after a disappointing league campaign.

Elthamians were relegated from London 1 South a year after gaining promotion from step seven, and they will need to draw on every ounce of encouragement afforded them by home advantage today.

Double

Their opponents, Gravesend, exited the division at the opposite end after winning the championship and a league-and-cup double would cement the 2009-10 season as the greatest in the club's history.

Gravesend chairman Graham Haggar said: "We last won the cup in 1990 so I think it's our time again. It's a big thing for us because we're not a hugely rich club, we don't have big backers and the boys have done this through sheer hard work. We are physically fit but also mentally fit and that's important because this will be a game of tactics."

Picture: ROGER GRAY

Picture: BRUCE ELLIOTT

FAVOURITES: (l-r) Gravesend aim to clinch league and cup double against Old Ethamians

The Kent Vase final features two sides riding high on the wave of promotion, with Cranbrook still revelling in their thrilling play-off win at Uckfield last Saturday.

The Cranes have left a Kent 1 division which will feature today's opponents, Lordswood, after the Medway club romped to the Kent 2 title without dropping a point.

Beckenham, who finished fifth in London 1 South, face an intriguing Plate final against a Canterbury development side which went into the weekend leading Invicta 1 by a single point.

The first game to kick-off is an all-Kent 1 affair for the right to lift the Salver, with Gillingham Anchorians attempting to see off Sheppey.

The Islanders' superb form in the latter part of the season lifted them from the foot of the table to eighth, while Anchorians finished fourth.

FINALS DAY FIXTURES

KENT CUP: Old Elthamians v Gravesend (3.30pm)
KENT VASE: Cranbrook v Lordswood (1pm)
KENT PLATE: Beckenham v Canterbury (2pm)
KENT SALVER: Gillingham Anchorians v Sheppey (12pm)

Athletes on track for new season

THE summer athletics season does not begin in anger until next month, but Blackheath & Bromley Harriers already have some silverware in the cabinet after winning the Kinnaird Trophy.

The men's section of Kent's top-ranked track and field club came out winners at their traditional warm-up event in Kingston.

Blackheath finished 12 points clear in an event which included teams from Oxford University and Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow AC.

After the club's best-ever season in 2009, when both senior teams won promotion, Harriers are looking forward to another successful summer. Pat Calnan, the club's British League manager, feels the win last weekend bodes well for the season ahead.

He said: "Winning gives everyone a confidence boost. It's not easy to win because there are some good teams involved, but we had some good people available. Looking ahead to the season I'd say we have a bit more depth in the seniors than this time last year.

OPENING ROUND

YESTERDAY: Southern Women's League
MAY 1: Southern Men's League
MAY 2: McCain Young Athletes League
MAY 8-9: Kent County Track and Field Championships
JUNE 5: British Athletics League, UK Women's Athletics League

"The target for the women will be to stay in the division and for us it will be to get promoted again, so both the teams are in the top flight. It's competitive but I don't see why we can't be mixing it."

Blackheath will again have teams competing in the elite club competitions – the British Athletics League for men and the UK Women's Athletics League – which do not begin until June. Like Medway & Maidstone, the only other Kent club with teams at a national level, their best athletes must wait for top-level competition.

CHAMPIONS: Blackheath and Bromley with the Kinnaird Trophy they won last season

The Southern League gets under way earlier, with the women's opening round held yesterday. Tonbridge are the county's highest ranked club and started their Premier Division campaign at Ipswich, while lower down the divisions Paddock Wood and Ashford were among the teams also involved.

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By TOM HOWARD

Look in the mirror

Motorbase expect charge from chasing pack

FAST START: Steven Kane has helped guide Motorbase to a lead in the touring car standings after a stunning start to the season

MOTORBASE Performance face a tall order to maintain their British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) lead today in the second round at Rockingham.

The popular touring car series heads to the peculiar Rockingham circuit in Northamptonshire with Wrotham-based Motorbase leading the standings by a point, following a stunning first ever one-two at Thruxton earlier this month.

Drivers Mat Jackson and Steven Kane aim to continue the team's surprise start to the season this afternoon.

Motorbase's start to the season shocked the paddock, but none more so than owner David Bartrum as his team's entry in the series looked bleak in the weeks leading up to the opening round.

However, after a morale-boosting three podium finishes at Thruxton, he hopes his drivers can maintain their form at Rockingham, but expects a tougher challenge from the Chevrolet and Honda cars.

Surprise

Bartrum said: "We went into Thruxton thinking if we can bank points that would be good as we knew the BMW hasn't been great around the circuit.

"So to be leading the championship was a complete surprise and today we need to maintain what we produced at Thruxton. It's not going to be easy as this round should give us a true representation of the championship, as everyone has now settled in.

"We may have lost the Vauxhall works team this year, but the two new works teams in Chevrolet and Honda have certainly added to the competitiveness. It is just as hard, if not harder than last year."

At the other end of the BTCC pack, Pembury born Shaun Hollamby believes he will be closer to challenging his rivals after making several improvements to his Volkswagen Golf. The 44-year-old, making his debut in the series this season with his own AmD Miltek Sport team, finished only one of the three races last time out.

He said: "Racing in the series definitely lived up to expectation and we hope to have a better round this afternoon. We have made some changes to the car after looking at all the data we received. We feel we will be much closer to our rivals."

Also looking to extend his lead at the top of a motorsport series is Tunbridge Wells driver Jake Hill who competes in the Ginetta Junior Championship.

The 16-year-old, hoping to become the youngest ever driver at the Le Mans 24 hours next year, recorded a victory and a fifth place from the first two races of the season at Thruxton. He leads the championship by three points.

Tommy still on top of the hill

COUNTY racing's domination of the British Superbike Championship looks set to continue this year as Kent rider Tommy Hill extended his lead in the series to 34 points last weekend.

With Sheppey's Shane Byrne winning the title in 2008 and Ashford's Leon Camier triumphant last year, Hill looks set to make a serious challenge to become the third consecutive Kent rider to lift the coveted crown.

The Beckenham-born rider recorded his second win of the season and a second place finish at Thruxton last Sunday.

Coupled with a win and second place from the opening round of the championship at home circuit Brands Hatch, he has built a healthy lead in the series.

The 25-year-old has been plagued by injuries and bad luck in a stop-start career, but now fully-fit, he is reaping the rewards on the Worx Crescent Suzuki.

He entered the season as an outside contender for the championship, but is rapidly becoming a title favourite after building an impressive lead in the standings.

He said: "It is fantastic to come away leading the championship by 34 points as those were two tough races at Thruxton.

"In the second race [rival] Josh Brookes did a great job and I just couldn't get passed him, but I am happy for second as that is another two good finishes for me. I wanted to leave as championship leader and that is what we have done, so the job's a dream."

Hill heads to Cheshire's Oulton Park next weekend hoping to maintain his advantage in the third round.

Jamie's a belter

JAMIE Lambert will fight for a national kickboxing title next month after winning his third regional crown.

After Southern Area wins at 72 kilograms and 75kg, the 21-year-old beat Tom Clarke on his own patch in Bedford earlier this month to take the 77kg title.

Lambert (pictured) trains at the UK Warriors Gym in Herne Bay and takes on London Academy's Freddie Lumor in Luton for the national belt on May 9.

Lee Whittington, who owns Warriors and coaches Lambert, feels winning three regional titles at different weight categories was a significant achievement.

He said: "Fighters normally win the Southern title and go straight for the national one. Jamie's gone the hard road by staying at this level to find which weight he is best at, and only now he's going to move up to it.

"He had a couple of defeats but since last November he's put his foot on the gas and is really starting to achieve.

"It was a very tough fight against Tom Clarke, but Jamie put in an impressive performance."

Evans proves herself county's finest

SIAN Evans came out on top in a keenly contested 2010 Kent County Ladies' Golf Association Championship.

The Faversham Golf Club member battled to victory in the three-day tournament earlier this month at Langley Park in Beckenham.

She lifted the Maconochie-Hill claret jug and golden brooch after winning the final against Jerry Lawrence, who had the consolation of leading Rochester & Cobham Park to the Team Shield.

The 33-strong field went through two qualifying rounds on the opening day, with the top-16 progressing to the knock-out phase. Lawrence came out on top with rounds of 72 and 80, finishing with 152 to take the Jackson Trophy for the best gross 36 holes.

Fellow Rochester golfer Danielle Gibb finished on 153, while Evans was only one shot further back. Jessica Gregory (Rochester & Cobham Park) and Susan Gibb (Royal Cinque Ports) scraped into the latter stages after carding 168 each after the two rounds.

HEAD-TO-HEAD: Sian Evans (right) beat Jerry Lawrence in the final Pictures: ADY KERRY

Seeded number one, Lawrence negotiated her way past Susan Gibb to make the quarter-finals, where she beat Sundridge Park's Kim Morris to make the semi-finals.

In the bottom half of the draw, Evans saw off 13th seed Pamela McGuirk (Princes). A win against Brittany Burton, one of three Royal Cinque Ports golfers to make the last 16, followed to send Evans into the last four.

Lawrence beat defending champion Anne Wheble (Dartford) in the semi-final, while Evans edged past Sophie Daws (Littlestone) to reach the final. The Faversham golfer's fantastic form saw her triumph in the showpiece.

Jenny Brown, from Nizels Golf Club at Hildenborough, won the Senior Championship.

SPURS TARGET: Ryan Gooderson

Elite guiding young talent

YOUTH football coaching is an increasingly competitive market, but one Kent-based set-up is catching the eye of several big clubs.

Soccer Elite FA has thrived since it was set up by former professional players Lee Spiller and Tony Browne in 2006.

It now has more than 400 youngsters aged two to 16 training at centres in Maidstone, Sittingbourne and Kings Hill.

The reputation has followed, with Soccer Elite's sides regularly playing their counterparts in big academies. Last weekend the under-10s gave a good account of themselves at Aston Villa, losing 6-4.

To date, 30 of their players have signed for professional clubs, ranging from players heading to Gillingham's centre of excellence right to the top flight, with Ryan Gooderson and Rafferty Pedder, set to join Tottenham's under-9s next season.

The success prompted Chelsea to recruit Spiller and Browne to coach part-time at their academy and the link has paid off as two more of their players have now signed for the Blues.

Spiller believes Soccer Elite has succeeded because they replicate the experience of a top-flight set-up.

He said: "We run it as a professional academy, even using the same balls as the Premier League. We run the same drills and techniques we use at Chelsea.

"All our coaches are current or former pros and we have people like [Dover striker] Adam Birchall, who was at Arsenal under Arsene Wenger. We want to pass our knowledge on to the kids."

England legend holds coaching workshop in Kent

'Psycho' Pearce keen to get coaching message across

EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID PRITCHARD

COACHING standards are improving, but more money is needed at grass roots to make further progress, according to England under-21 coach Stuart Pearce.

The former England international ran a coaching workshop staged by the Kent County Football Association at Dartford's Princes Park this week.

More than 70 coaches of teams at all levels from across the county observed Pearce run a session with players from Dartford's Academy, before fielding questions on a range of footballing issues.

Pearce, who spent two years in charge at Manchester City before joining the England set-up, was pleased with the turnout.

In an exclusive interview with this newspaper he stressed the importance of youth coaches installing good habits.

"It's more important for them to be good at their job than it might be me, as silly as that sounds," he said.

Invite

"Younger players are blank canvases, they have obviously got physical and mental attributes at birth, but on top of that they turn up to work with their first coach and they just soak knowledge up.

"If you give them the right knowledge and the right influence you're going to get a good player out of it, or a player who is going to go as far as he possibly can on his ability.

"If you give him the wrong information the chances of me picking up a player at 18, 19, 20 are negligible."

Pearce sees putting on coaching workshops across the country as part of his under-21 coach's job description.

The former full-back, nicknamed 'Psycho' for his passionate displays during his playing career, believes progress in coaching is being made, while acknowledging there is still a long way to go for England to match some of their more technically gifted rivals on the international stage.

TALKING SHOP: Stuart Pearce with the coaches who turned up for his workshop

He said: "I think there's more of an emphasis on coaching in this country now, but I still think we have a hell of a long way to go. I think we have to have a better mentality to keep on learning.

"At the top end, in my game, you can be a manager who gets an opportunity like I did in the Premier League, you have a couple of seasons at it and it's very easy to write people off very quickly.

"It's important coaches at all levels are supported and it's seen as a whole career. Maybe that message gets sent out a bit by coming out here."

Given the authority to make changes in English football, the 48-year-old is clear what he would do to make further improvements.

"I would say probably some of the finance that's in the game at the moment should be channelled more to grass roots and clubs at the bottom, so everyone has ample amount of coaching staff who are qualified," he said.

"A lot of clubs are working on a shoestring and at the top end of the game clubs are giving money away willy-nilly, sometimes to agents and stuff like that.

"Certainly on my wish-list I'd have a national football centre built tomorrow where we could invite coaches in, invite the best players in and develop a university of coaching, which would be a real priority."

Lee Suter, KCFA development officer, who organised this week's workshop, was delighted with the outcome.

He said: "I think anyone who has attended, if they only pick up one thing that's great.

"Anything you can pick up from someone with 25 years' experience, managing in the Premier League, managing elite players, can only be positive."

PEARCE ON... ENGLAND MANAGER FABIO CAPELLO

"He's very professional. I think at the age of 63 to continually try to improve himself is a great example for people like myself.

"We have someone who has won nine titles in 14 years in respective countries and still I walk past his office and see him reading a book or a handbook underlining sentences and saying this could be useful to us. For me what an example he is to a young coach."

PEARCE ON... ENGLAND'S WORLD CUP CHANCES

"We're going there with a mentality of trying to win it, it's as simple as that.

"I would expect that to be the same for probably 90 per cent of the nations going there. I don't think expectations will vary too much in different countries."

Town's joy at double win

FAVERSHAM Town completed a league and cup double to cap off a fine season and now prepare for life as a Ryman League club, ***writes Glenn Pearson.***

The Lilywhites picked up their first piece of silverware in 20 years with the Kent Senior Trophy last Sunday and followed that up with an 8-0 thrashing of Corinthian in midweek to claim the Kent League title.

For chairman Bob Mason, who was part of a group that helped reform the club in 2005 after expulsion three years earlier, winning the league was a proud moment.

"I remember when we reformed and we stood looking at the ground and the grass was standing six foot high and it was really a bit of a wreck, so to get what we have by winning the cup and the league, well, it's happy days," he said." "It's been wonderful and I think [manager] Justin Luchford and the lads, who are a great bunch of lads, have forged a great team spirit."

Luchford took over as Faversham Town manager in the 2007/2008 season with the Lilywhites bottom of the league and conceding a mountain of goals, often in double figures.

He helped steady results on the pitch with a mid-table finish, before narrowly missing out on the title up to the final week of last season.

His side have led right from the start of the season and never relinquished their place at the top, which for Luchford, makes them deserving champions, despite criticism from some quarters about Town's style of football.

SUCCESS: Faversham Town ended 20-year wait for silverware in the Kent Senior Trophy

"It's unbelievable, I think it will take a little while to sink in," he said. "I know we went into the game knowing we had a chance of doing it, but I didn't think we would go out with such a bang.

"If we are the worst footballing side in the league, score over 100 goals, concede the least and get the most points – I'll keep being slated, I can take that."

Howe committed to Gills

GILLINGHAM striker Rene Howe says he has just as much at stake in the club avoiding relegation as the rest of the squad, despite only being at Priestfield on loan.

The 23-year-old is contracted to Peterborough United, but has been a virtual ever-present in the side since arriving at Gillingham in January.

With his deal expiring after the last game of the season next month, the tall striker's career is not inextricably linked to whether Gillingham avoid relegation.

But Howe feels his committed displays have shown he wants the club to stay up just as much as anyone else in the squad, pointing out his reputation is also on the line.

He said: "In the games I've been playing I've been totally involved and wanting to play well for the team. It doesn't matter whether I'm on loan or I've signed, I just want to play well.

"It's good for me. I've had some play-offs with other teams and this would add to my CV, getting a team out of a relegation zone."

Fellow loanee Darren Dennehy has also shown admirable commitment to the Gills' cause in recent weeks.

The centre-back returned to Cardiff City yesterday after his temporary deal expired, but won praise from manager Mark Stimson after playing through the pain with a back injury against Brighton and Leeds.

PRIDE: Rene Howe says helping to keep Gills up will help boost his reputation

Howe still has another year left on his contract at Peterborough, but despite a change of manager at London Road the striker is keen on ending an unhappy spell this summer.

He said: "I've been speaking to my agent. I've not enjoyed my time there, it's not unheard of that I haven't enjoyed my time. I'll wait until the summer, see what happens club-wise and hopefully I'll be out of there, regardless of the new manager. Sometimes you just have to let things go and move on."

When asked whether Gillingham were an option, he added: "Without a doubt, I've enjoyed my time here."

Coles fired up

Seamer promises a battle in fight to clinch place in Kent bowling line-up

IMPROVED: Matt Coles says he is working harder than ever to keep his place in the Kent starting line-up Picture: ADY KERRY

By GLENN PEARSON

WHILE Kent members and supporters look forward to the return of Robbie Joseph, Simon Cook and Dewald Nel to the side, there's one player that isn't going to give up his place in the team without a fight.

Promising seamer Matt Coles was one of the bright spots in the county's poor start to the season which culminated in an innings and 32-run defeat against Nottinghamshire.

He bowled a good spell on the second day to help clean up the Notts' tail and then showed genuine promise with the bat in a cameo knock of 28 from as many balls.

The 19-year-old, who lives in Maidstone, was rewarded for his display with a place in the side for the LV= County Championship game against Yorkshire that ended yesterday, and is hopeful of keeping his place in the side, despite several bowlers due to make a return in the coming weeks.

"I know when I get my chance that I have to take it, I can't relax thinking I have made it, if anything I know I have to work even harder," he said.

"On the bowling front there are a few niggles with players but they are getting back to fitness so for me, I have to take my chance while it's there.

"I have to think 'they need to work to get their place back in the side'. As long as I can keep showing signs of improvement then it keeps the others on their toes."

Coles, who has progressed through the Kent Academy, has shown vast improvement from his first-class debut against Gloucestershire at the end of last season, but is aware he needs to be consistent with his line and length to maintain a place in the Kent side.

Head coach Paul Farbrace has seen that improvement first hand and although he is keen not to put too much pressure on his young quick bowler, he feels Coles has a bright future ahead.

Positives

"Over the winter he has improved immensely," Farbrace said. "I thought he was one of our real positives out of Trent Bridge, his last spell was of genuine pace.

"I heard somewhere that he thought he was an all-rounder in the making but didn't feel the coaches thought the same way.

"I think we all quietly see him as an all-rounder but we don't want to get too carried away with his batting just yet – but he has the ability to hit the ball a long way because he is a powerful lad.

"He does have the makings of an all-rounder, there's no question of that and I genuinely believe he has the ability to go a long way in the game."

TOUGH TASK: Barry Hawkins lost 10-6 to reigning world champion John Higgins

Battling Barry fails to break Crucible duck

BARRY Hawkins' wait for a win at the World Snooker Championship goes on after a first round defeat to John Higgins.

The 30-year-old was unable to build on a good start which saw him win the first session, eventually losing 10-6. It was the fifth successive season Hawkins had fallen at the first hurdle in Sheffield and meant his hopes of finishing the season inside the top-16 were over.

Hawkins, who had to qualify just to reach the last 32, began well last weekend and led the defending champion 5-4 after the first session.

Higgins' class showed in the deciding session, reeling off the first four frames to take an 8-5 lead. Hawkins pulled one back but it only prolonged the inevitable as the provisional world number one took the next two frames to progress.

Rainham's Gerard Greene also made an early exit, losing to 2005 champion Shaun Murphy on Thursday.

The 36-year-old won the opening frame with a break of 53 but then endured a torrid time losing the next eight frames. He eventually lost 10-7.

Volcano hits sports stars

THE tremors from the Icelandic volcano have reverberated around the Kent sporting scene this week with the ash cloud sparking travel chaos across the globe, ***writes Steve Tervet.***

Players and officials due to fly into the UK were stranded abroad and the county's motorsport contingent were left in limbo as race organisers weighed up the practicalities of staging their scheduled events.

Steve Bennett was conspicuous by his absence at Eastlands last Saturday, where the Orpington-based referee was due to take charge of the much-hyped Manchester derby in the Premier League.

Bennett, who is also a referee's instructor for FIFA, was in Romania for their annual course and was unable to make the return journey, with Martin Atkinson replacing him.

Eventually setting off for home on Monday, it took Bennett 55 hours to cross Europe by train and he returns to action today, taking charge of Chelsea v Stoke City at Stamford Bridge.

"Anyone would look forward to a game of that magnitude but it's one of those things," he said. "As a referee, we control the controllables but we realised on Friday this was something beyond our control. I saw bits of the game and fortunately it passed off without any trouble."

In cricket, Kent were able to name off-spinner James Tredwell in their side for Yorkshire's County Championship visit to St Lawrence after England's trip to the ICC World Twenty20 was delayed.

Tredwell lined up against England teammates Tim Bresnan and Ajmal Shahzad for the game which started on Wednesday, with England now set to fly out of Gatwick today.

Tenterden-born golfer Benn Barham was denied to the chance to climb the European Challenge Tour Order of Merit as the Moroccan Classic, due to run from Wednesday to Saturday, was called off at the height of the airspace lockdown.

GAME OFF: Golfer Benn Barham (right) and football referee Steve Bennett

Shane Byrne and Leon Camier were both forced to rethink their travel plans ahead of the World Superbike races in Assen, with practice commencing on Friday. Byrne drove from his Zurich home to Sittingbourne before heading to the Netherlands in his motor home, while Camier, unable to fly out of Barcelona, made the 1,500km road-trip north from Andorra.

Meanwhile, Moto GP rider Danny Webb was left frustrated as today's Japanese Grand Prix was postponed. He now faces an anxious wait to see if his bike – already in Motegi – can be flown to Spain for next weekend's race in Jerez.

TEAM PLAYER: Natalie Seymour in action for Great Britain against China last week Picture: ADY KERRY

Nat's praise for GB set-up

NATALIE Seymour believes her hockey game is reaping the benefits of being part of the Great Britain squad's centralised coaching programme.

The 23-year-old featured last week as the squad played two games against China, silver medallists at the Beijing Olympics.

Seymour last played against China at last summer's Champions Trophy, when England finished the tournament with a 7-0 defeat. Although Britain lost both games at Bisham Abbey, the 2-1 and 3-1 scorelines reflected much closer contests.

The defender, who plays for Canterbury ladies, is among the elite squad which has trained three days a week since last autumn and believes progress is being made, both collectively and individually.

She said: "Last time we played China it felt like we were chasing them, but with these games it was almost the opposite. It's a real positive and it shows we are going in the right direction.

"To be able to train full-time and be involved with the Great Britain squad preparing for the Olympics is an absolute dream.

"There are some really tough days when your body's sore, but it's worth it. We have a big summer coming up and I'm trying to train hard and put myself in a position for selection."

Seymour could greatly increase her international experience in the next few months, with three big tournaments looming.

England host the world's top nations in the Champions Trophy at Nottingham in July, while the World Cup and Commonwealth Games also come before the autumn.

Overseas bowler on his way

KENT are almost certain to travel to Old Trafford on Monday ahead of their LV= County Championship game against Lancashire with their new overseas bowler in the side.

Kent on Sunday understands that the new quick bowler is expected to arrive on a flight tomorrow and will go straight into the side for the championship game against Lancashire.

The county have been working hard on a replacement for Stuart Clark, who it was decided wasn't going to be fit enough to last his three-month stint at St Lawrence, and have got their man after getting international clearance in the week.

With their new fast bowler set to lead the attack, the bowling line up is set to look a lot healthier with Simon Cook and Dewald Nel back to fitness.

The pair are likely to play in the Kent Spitfires' first Clydesdale Bank ECB40 game against Warwickshire at St Lawrence today, while fast bowler Robbie Joseph plays his first competitive action for 11 months with a second-team game against a Unicorns XI at Wormsley this afternoon.

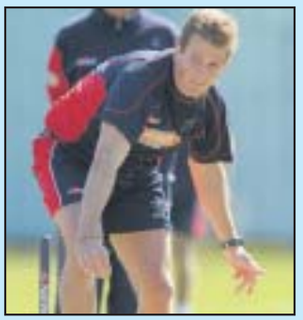
Cook is likely to be available as well for the trip to Old Trafford, while Nel and Joseph will play in a second-team game at Beckenham, which starts on Monday.

For the visit of the Warwickshire Bears, the top seven that played in the championship game are set to keep their places, but off-spinner James Tredwell is unavailable as he begins his journey to the West Indies with England for the ICC World Twenty20.

England pair, Ian Bell and Jonathan Trott are likely to be among the Warwickshire ranks and Kent head coach Paul Farbrace believes playing against the top sides should represent a good challenge for his players.

"[Warwickshire] have always been a tough game for Kent over the years," he said. "We have a tough group but you want to play against the best teams. You want to be testing yourself against the very best. I think we should be looking forward to it rather than thinking 'it's a tough game and we are in a tough group'. If you want to win things you have to beat the best teams."

Pictures: ADY KERRY



FULLY FIT: (l-r) Dewald Nel and Simon Cook are back from injury

Today's game starts at 1.45pm.

KENT 12: Joe Denly, Rob Key, Geraint Jones, Martin van Jaarsveld, Sam Northeast, Darren Stevens, James Hockley, Azhar Mahmood, Matt Coles, Simon Cook, Amjad Khan, and Dewald Nel.

BACK IN THE BIG LEAGUE?

Kennedy's interested in reinstating two former county cricket festivals

EXCLUSIVE

By **GLENN PEARSON**

COUNTY cricket could be set to return to both Maidstone and Folkestone in the near future with club chairman George Kennedy welcoming interest in taking the first-class game around Kent.

The club's second string played a game at The Mote in Maidstone last season, the first time a senior Kent side had played there following a points deduction in a County Championship game against Gloucestershire in 2005.

Kent's second XI are due back again this summer and with The Mote harbouring ambitions to upgrade facilities, including a new pavilion, a return could be on the cards.

Kennedy has been pleased with the reports about the pitch at Maidstone and said providing the upgrades are completed, he would be interested in resurrecting the popular Maidstone Cricket Festival.

Conditions

"When [the facilities] get back to a proper standard then they will get absolute due consideration like anywhere else," he said. "If they are still at the planning stage then you've got to say it's looking like a couple of years, but as soon as they are ready there is every possibility that we would like to reinstate a Maidstone festival.

"The report on the pitch last season was good and that's why we are going back again this year. There is no problem whatsoever with playing conditions, but there are all sorts of health and safety issues about the state of the pavilion and the facilities in general. The truth of the matter is they are not up to county standard."

Picture: ADY KERRY

With the club set to play a 'home' game at the Brit Oval in this year's Friends Provident t20 competition, it's refreshing to hear Kennedy discussing a return to what in the past have been popular cricket festivals in the county.

The Kent chairman also opened the way for a county return to Folkestone, a venue that hasn't staged Kent cricket for 19 years, after learning of plans to redevelop facilities at the old Cheriton Road ground.

Plans were submitted at the end of last year which included giving the current outdated facilities a complete makeover, an extra artificial turf pitch, indoor training hall and brand new clubhouse.

The multi-million pound project has the backing of the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust and Kennedy has urged developers to get in contact about a Kent return.

He said: "There is talk on the horizon that Folkestone could come back on the circuit at some stage. There has been talk that people are putting money into the area and I would personally like to see it back on the circuit.

"We haven't had any conversations as yet but we are always keen that if the facilities are right and we can get the right gates, we will go there.

"Anyone who can supply a first-class wicket and first-class facilities, we would be willing to talk to. What I want to avoid is this being known as Canterbury Cricket Club. It's Kent Cricket Club for the whole of Kent."

IN THE PICTURE: The Mote in Maidstone and a revamped Cheriton Road ground in Folkestone are two venues under consideration for future Kent games, says chairman George Kennedy (left)

Kennedy also revealed the green shoots of recovery have appeared after the club announced a deficit of £802,000 for the last financial year. He said sponsorship deals with Demelza House, Shepherd Neame and ETL Telecom has helped and feels the club is finally getting its house in order.

"At this stage of the year, of which we are halfway through because the financial year starts in October, we are in far better nick than we were last year," he said. "That's quite important because the money has started to come in now. It's looking good because for the first time we have got rid of the overhang and we are starting with a clean sheet.

"Every department is performing reasonably well so that's encouraging and membership revenue is up."

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